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# *Saskatchewan*

*D. C. McLeod*



*Saskatchewan*

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THE  
PROVINCES OF CANADA



A SOCIAL STUDIES SERIES

*Saskatchewan*



D. C. McLeod

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THE PROVINCES OF CANADA SERIES

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN

# *Saskatchewan*

by

*D. C. McLeod*



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Legislative Building, Regina

## Saskatchewan

THE NAME SASKATCHEWAN was given by the Cree Indians to the greatest river on the prairies, and it means 'swiftly running water'. It was the name given by the government to the province when it was formed in 1905. Now Saskatchewan has become famous as one of the three Canadian Provinces that produce the best wheat in the world.

If you were asked to draw maps of all the Canadian provinces you would find that of Saskatchewan the easiest. Its sides are straight lines, curved by the surface of the earth. From north to south, Saskatchewan is 761 miles long. At the south it borders the states of Montana and North Dakota for 393 miles. At the north, where it touches the North West Territories, it is 227 miles wide. Find Saskatchewan on a globe, and you will understand why it is narrower at the north.

It is larger than either France or Germany, and five times as large as England. Many millions of people live in those countries, but in Saskatchewan there are fewer than one million people, about the same number as in some of Canada's largest cities.

On your map you would print many interesting place-names. Some would suggest their own meaning: Goldfields, Swift Current, Birch Hills. Some are French: Qu'Appelle, Lac La Ronge. Many are musical Indian names: Waskemu, Lake Manitou, Nokomis, Athabaska. Explorers are re-

membered in a few names like Peter Pond and Frobisher Lakes, and old homes in lands beyond the sea are remembered in names like Aberdeen, Limerick, or Prince Albert.

Place names reflect the history of the country. In them we see the influence of Indians, fur traders, surveyors, and early settlers. Battleford, or "battle crossing", is an Indian name translated into English. *Waskegan* is the Indian word for red deer. The builders of the Grand Trunk Railway used a plan for naming towns in alphabetical order and named Allen, Bradwell, Claver. . . Venn, Watrous, Xena, Young, Zelma. Fortunately, more imagination was used by others who thought of names like Hanging Heart Lakes, Flin Flon, and Moose Jaw.

The coat of arms of Saskatchewan is an emblem, or drawing, to represent the province. On the upper one-third of the shield there is a red lion on a gold background, while below, there are three sheaves of wheat on a green ground. The colours tell a story: red is for the fires that swept the prairies in the early days, green is for the prairie grass in springtime, and gold is for the fields of ripe wheat.

As its floral emblem, Saskatchewan chose the tiger lily.



## Surface, Rivers, and Lakes

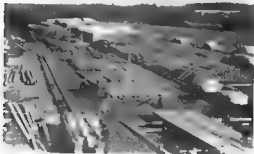
**I**F YOU WERE TO LOOK at a map of Canada made in relief, you would see at once that the highest places are the mountain ranges along the west, and the lowest are at the level of the sea.

Look for the largest plain, and you will find the prairies. Although the land there is much flatter than in other parts of Canada, you will see that it is not entirely flat, for there are three stretches of prairie, each a little higher than the last, for the land rises in steppes, or levels, from Hudson Bay to the Rockies. The surface of each Prairie Province is, in general, a great plain, broken by lines of hills. In Saskatchewan, the highest point is in the Cypress Hills, in the south west corner of the province. At the north the province lies in the Canadian Shield, where the land is rough, rocky, and swampy.

Water runs downhill toward the sea. The largest rivers—the Saskatchewan, with all its branches, and the Churchill—drain toward Hudson Bay. Most of the water in prairie rivers comes from snow melting in the Rockies. The waters of the Saskatchewan drain into Lake Winnipeg, then out through the Nelson River to Hudson Bay. The Churchill flows directly to the Bay. In these river systems are many lakes, the principal ones being Reindeer, Lac La Ronge, Lac La Plonge, Montreal, Clear, Ile a la Crosse, and Waterhen, but there are many others. Be sure to find these names on your map.

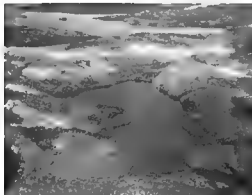


Wheat country



Crescent plot, Prince Albert, showing small timber





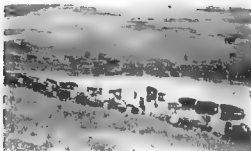
On the Great Shield View of horizon at Charlton's late scene of important uranium discovery

Some rivers drain toward the Mackenzie River and the Arctic Ocean. Find on this northern slope the Clearwater, Cree, and Black Rivers, and Lakes Wollaston and Athabaska.

Running southeast are the Qu'Appelle, Assiniboine, and Souris Rivers, which flow into the Red River, then into Lake Winnipeg and, finally, into Hudson Bay.

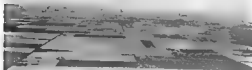
Little streams along the United States border find their way southward into the Mississippi System.

But remember that the general slope of the land in Saskatchewan is toward the north east, and that most of the water draining from the province is on its way through the Saskatchewan and Churchill rivers to Hudson Bay.



Cattle country south western Saskatchewan

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Air view, showing flat prairie land

Western and Flat Road

## Climate

**W**EATHER IS ALL-IMPORTANT TO those living on the prairies. A year's work may be lost by lack of rain, or by an early frost or a hail storm.

Saskatchewan has a light rainfall, from 10 to 20 inches annually. Compare this with the 60 or 70 inches of rain which the Pacific Coast receives each year. No wonder the trees of British Columbia are so much larger than those of Saskatchewan!

There is little difference in climate between the three Prairie Provinces. The warm Chinook wind has more effect on the climate of Alberta than it has on the climate of Saskatchewan, on the whole, however, the prairies have hot summers and cold winters. That is, they have an "extreme" climate.

A damp climate is more even in temperature. Look in your newspaper for the weather reports giving the temperatures of the chief cities in Canada. In July, when Regina registers 87 degrees, you may find Vancouver registering 72 degrees. In January, when people on the prairies are shivering at temperatures of 20 and 40 degrees below zero, Vancouver has probably a temperature of 50 degrees above zero. Now you see what we mean by "extreme" and "even" when we speak of climate.

On the prairies there is a saying, 'All weather comes from the west.' The prevailing, or most common winds come from the west. Sometimes the wind seems like an

enemy. The weather is dry, and the soil drifts, covering the farmers' crops with sand. But, in spite of dust storms, the wind is a most valuable servant. Without it there would be no rain, for it brings the clouds. Then it blows them away again, and through long sunny days the wheat crops ripen.



*Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture*  
Farmstead showing dugout reservoir in foreground

Because there is so little rain, Saskatchewan farmers must either raise crops that do not need much water, or they must find a way to bring water from rivers or lakes to their farms when they need it, that is, to irrigate their farms. Their greatest problem is the conservation of moisture.

Many farmers dig reservoirs, or build dams across rivers or coulees, to save the water that is so plentiful in spring.

People living in Saskatchewan sometimes complain about heat in summer and cold in winter, but autumn days are beautiful on the prairies. Ripe grain is stacked and threshed, or combined, and hauled in trucks to the elevator. V's of wild geese honk their way southward. The sky is a hazy

black, and every clump of bushes is a jewel against the dark ploughed fields.

Those who spend their winters in a milder climate are cheated of the clear, crisp, winter days, when the dryness of the atmosphere takes the sting out of the frost, and people,



Dust storm

dress warmly and go for a sleigh ride or skate on an outdoor rink. No wonder that the prairies of Canada have produced so many of the great players of the National Hockey League. Every boy plays from the time he can hold a hockey stick.

Nowhere is spring more welcome than when it comes after a long, hard winter. Sudden warmth sends the melting snow pouring down the coulees to the sloughs and rivers. The birds return, the first gopher appears, and everywhere the farmers are "on the land."

## Vegetation

**N**OW LET US SEE what grows on the plains and slopes of the province

Lay a pencil on the map of Saskatchewan across the middle, near Prince Albert. The land north of this line is covered with forest. Lay another pencil across the map, with the one end just south of the town of Lloydminster, the other end passing over Yorkton and extending to the east boundary. Between the two pencils there would be a wide area of parkland—grassy plains dotted with trees. The southern part of the province from the parklands to the American boundary is a grassy plain with few trees except those along the river banks or on some of the hills. Most of the people live on the grassy plains, or prairies, of the south, where the great wheat fields are.

Indeed, many people think that all of Saskatchewan is prairie, forgetting about the northern part, covered with forests which shelter great numbers of fur-bearing animals. In this northern area there are lakes, large and small, holding a wealth of fish, and providing natural landing fields for planes. The land of northern Saskatchewan is rough and rocky, but it shows the promise of a store of minerals as yet undiscovered. This forest area of the north is largely made up of spruce trees, though there are many jack-pines and a small sprinkling of birch. In the very northern end of the province the vegetation is smaller, on account of the extreme cold.

The trees and bushes that grow in the parkland are mostly poplar and a kind of hardy willow. These usually grow in small clumps or groves, and seldom form a continuous forest belt. Many kinds of grasses grow in the parklands,



*Saskatchewan Parkland*

*With school farm, in parkland area. Leftist*

some short and some tall. The vetches and other flowers that grow in this area make a beautiful sight in summer.

What causes prairies? It is not lack of rain only, for Saskatchewan's average of 15 inches of rain in a year would be enough to support the growth of trees if it were distributed evenly throughout the summer. Most of the moisture comes in spring rains, or in winter snows, and it runs off

the land quickly instead of soaking into the soil. The drought of midsummer, and the drying winds, do not kill grass or grain crops unless continued too long, but trees need a steady supply of moisture. Grain crops are grass



On Bob Shannon's farm near Saskatoon. He never uses a harrow for he finds it starts soil drifting.

plants, and if sufficient moisture is supplied at the right time, the grain fills out and ripens in the sunny days of July.

Prairie fires caused the forest region to move farther north in Saskatchewan. There used to be many more trees along the southern edge of the park lands. South of Saskatoon is an area called Moose Woods. There are few trees and no moose there now. There was a time, however, when the



forest reached farther south, and moose were plentiful. Early settlers in the Saskatoon district recall the days of good hunting. But great prairie fires destroyed the forests, and grasses took their place.



Field shelterbelts with farmsteads protected by windbreaks.

Prairie farmers have had to look for ways to fight drought, and to hold moisture in the ground. One of the best ways is to plant trees and to protect the ones already growing there. Trees help to keep the moisture from running away too quickly after rain or melting snow. They also help to prevent soil-drifting in dry, windy years.

## Early History

### THE STORY OF THE LAND

**M**ANY CHANGES in the history of a people come in a hundred years, but it takes thousands of years for changes to show in mountain or land or sea. The story of our wheatlands had its beginning a very long time ago. The soil we till is but the thin outer crust of the great rocky mass of the earth. Long before the earliest man appeared on earth, this layer of rich soil was being prepared on what is now the southern part of the Prairie Provinces, and the Great Plain of the central United States. Through the long ages, the rocky surface has been worn down. Slowly, very slowly, great changes have come about.

At one time the climate in what is now Western Canada was very warm. The sea covered much of the land, and there were swamps where tropical trees grew. At that time dinosaurs and other huge animals, strange to us, lived there. Remains of these animals have been dug from the hills along the Red Deer River near Drumheller in Alberta, and from the Cypress Hills in Saskatchewan.

Have you ever heard the expression, "As old as the hills"? We use it when we wish to say something is very, very old. But old as they are, the Rocky Mountains were not formed until after the time of the dinosaurs. Of course, no people lived on the prairies then, but men who can read the stories of the rocks tell us that the surface of the earth was squeezed

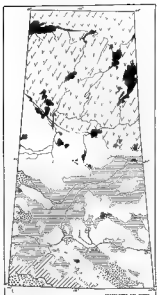
Map showing  
surface geology



GLACIAL CLAY SALT  
AND DEPOSITS



GLACIAL MORaine  
BOULDER CLAY



MODIFIED BEDROCK SALT AND SANDY CLAY



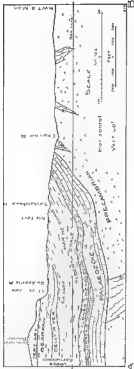
MODIFIED BEDROCK SHALE



PRE CAMBRIAN SHIELD—ROCK OUTCROPS AND GLACIAL DEPOSITS

*Saskatchewan Soil Survey*





Geological Survey of Canada, 1964

Diagrammatic vertical section from south to north across Saskatchewan showing the basin structure of the Pre-Cambrian surface.

Compare this diagram with the diagram facing this page to see how the layers of rock formation are exposed on the surface of the province.

by changes in the hot mass below, and the mountains rose in strange shapes

Then, for some reason, the climate gradually grew cold, so cold that ice formed over the northern cap of the earth. This great ice cap moved farther and farther south. One ice field was so great that it covered the land from the Rockies to Hudson Bay. This slowly moving ice scraped away the soil that covered the rocks. It also ground up rocks to make more soil, and hollowed out basins for rivers and lakes. Much of this soil the great glacier shoved ahead of it until it came to a stop near what is now the boundary between Canada and the United States.

Gradually the climate changed again, and the glacier began to melt. It melted first at its southern edge. The water which came from the melted ice would naturally have flowed toward Hudson Bay, but the unmelted part of the glacier blocked its way. A mighty lake formed over what is now the prairies. When you look at the flat prairie land, it is easier to see why it is so level when you remember that it was once the bottom of a great lake. This helps to account, too, for the rich layer of soil that covers the prairies.

The great ice cap moved down again and again, only to be melted as the climate changed. Each time it came, a great heap of soil and rock was shoved ahead of it. Then, as it receded, great hills of rock and soil were left. As you study the surface of Saskatchewan, you can see where these ridges of hills were thrust up and left, as the glacier moved ever farther back.

When the great ancient lake became too deep to be held by the heights of land, the waters had to find an outlet

Scientists tell us that at one time, when the ice cap blocked the water's flow to Hudson Bay, the Qu'Appelle River flowed south over the height of land into the great Mississippi River Basin. But as the glacier finally melted away, the rivers returned to their natural basins.



Qu'Appelle River, Saskatchewan

Typical view in Qu'Appelle Valley. Notice the stream winding through the low flat valley bed, and the steep sides of the valley rising abruptly to the level of the country round. The shaded side of the valley is covered with trees and shrubs.

After reading this story, you will be able to understand many curious facts about Saskatchewan. Do you see why the land is so flat? Do you see why there are ranges of hills? Do you understand how the soil was scraped from the rocks in Northern Saskatchewan, making it easier for men to find deposits of gold and silver? Do you see why so many ridges and mounds of loose boulders run in the same general direction, north and south? Do you understand why great granite boulders are found far from any similar rock formations?

## LOOKING BACK

Before the white man came, Indians had roamed the prairies for centuries. They did not write their histories in books as we do, but they did leave signs to tell us how they lived.

Many interesting facts about the early prairie dwellers have been discovered by Mr. W. J. Orchard, of Tregarva, who has made a fine collection of primitive stone tools and weapons found on the prairies. Arrowheads, spear points, stone pestles, hammers, and axes are described and illustrated in his book *The Stone Age on the Prairies*.

When a Saskatchewan boy finds an arrowhead, he sees in imagination the Indian battle that took place long ago. Or perhaps he sees a great herd of buffalo pounding over the plains, leaving one of their number on the ground behind them, pierced through by the very arrow the boy holds.

Perhaps, when he and his friends picnic by the river, they look back two hundred and fifty years, and they see Henry Kelsey, with his Indian guides, paddling up the river, the first white man to gaze upon the Saskatchewan prairies.

## THE INDIANS

The white men, when they came, found the Indians still in the Stone Age. They had no wheels, no metals, no weaving, and no domestic animal other than the dog. They did not mine, so their weapons were made of stone. They made their arrowheads of sharp flint, and though their tomahawks and knives were skilfully shaped, they could not develop a keen cutting edge such as we get from metal.



They did no weaving, so their clothing was made from the skins of animals, sewed together with leather thongs, or sinews, using bone needles

They used bones for fish hooks. They used spruce roots for sewing bark canoes and for making fish nets. They used sharpened sticks to catch beavers in their lodges.

Scientists have found bones which show that horses lived on the Saskatchewan plains thousands of years ago. As time passed, they disappeared from that part of the world, but some of them found their way to Asia and Europe. When the Spaniards invaded Mex.co, they brought horses back to America. Some of these escaped, to live and multiply on the western plains.

The first Indians to capture and tame these wild horses had a great advantage over those who fought on foot. Of course, they used horses for hunting and fighting rather than for work. Since they had no wheels, the best they could do to adapt the horse to their needs was to make a travois. This was made by fastening two shafts over the horse's back,

A horse travois



with the ends of the shafts dragging on the ground. Loads were placed near the ends. The travois was usually loaded and driven by a squaw. It was not really a new invention, for smaller ones, drawn by dogs, had already been in use.

Indians who lived in Saskatchewan did not cultivate the ground for crops, so they were forced to keep constantly on the move in search of buffalo and other game. Their homes, therefore, had to be built in such a way that they could easily be taken down and moved to a new camp-site. They lived in tipis, or wigwams. These were cone-shaped dwellings constructed of poles covered with birch bark, or with the skins of buffalo or caribou.

The birch bark canoe was an Indian invention particularly suited to their way of travel. The rivers were the early highways, but they were sometimes made difficult by rapids or waterfalls. When a traveller came to an impassable spot in a stream, he had to go ashore and portage around the obstacle. He had to carry his boat and all his belongings, including whatever freight he might have with him. To carry a heavy boat would be impossible, but a light strong bark canoe solved his difficulty.

The chief Indian tribes of Saskatchewan were (1) the peaceful Chipewyans, an Athabaskan tribe who lived in the north of what is now Saskatchewan, (2) the warlike Crees, who lived on the plains and along the wooded streams of central Saskatchewan, and (3) the fierce Assiniboines of the south.

The Cree Indians had moved westward from their original home in the wooded country west of James Bay. They drove the Chipewyans out of the Churchill River territory, in which beaver was plentiful.

A branch of the Cree tribe moved down to the prairie land where the great buffalo herds gave an abundant supply of food. There, because they had plenty of meat, they lived in large bands, roving about after the herds.

What the buffalo was to the plains Indian, the moose was to the Indian of the north woods, but moose were scarce and difficult to hunt, so the woods Crees caught fish and other game to supply enough food for the small camps of the North. They were expert in trapping beaver, and white traders came to depend upon them as their chief source of furs.

#### THE BUFFALO

No story of Indians on the western plains could be told without mention of the North American bison, which we more often call the buffalo. The buffalo found the grassy plains of western Canada ideal summer feeding grounds. They roamed about in search of food and water, keeping in herds as a protection against prairie wolves who were quick to pounce upon a straggler or a weakling.

They spent the winter in more wooded places where there was some shelter from the weather. Saskatchewan buffalo gathered in two great herds for the winter. One herd might have been found in the park lands between the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers. The other herd wintered in the south of the province on the Missouri Coteau. In the spring they broke up into bands, and scattered over the open prairie.

The herds were so large that they stretched for miles, and hunters have estimated that there were probably a million animals in some of the bands. Buffalo had certain



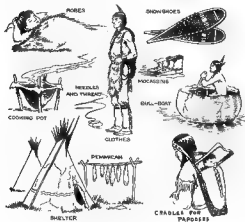
Crude buffalo pound into which the buffalo were herded by the Indians. Such pounds were often made in the hollows and ravines, the sides of which helped the Indians corral the herd until they could be slaughtered.

routes which they followed in search of food, and Indians found it easy to keep them in sight

In hunting the buffalo, the Indians used to stalk them, sometimes camouflaging themselves with a covering of buffalo skins, and crawling to within bow and arrow distance. There was great excitement, and danger too, in approaching so close to the buffalo, for he was especially dangerous when wounded. The hunter had to be very sure that the great animal was really dead before he came within reach

Sometimes the Indians banded together and drove large numbers of buffalo into a 'pound', where they could be slaughtered as the Indians wished. In the wooded country the pound was a sort of corral closed in by tree trunks and branches fastened together to form a fence. On the prairie the pound was usually in a hollow at the bottom of a steep hill, from which the animals could not escape

The hunters stationed themselves in two long lines which came together like a funnel into the opening of the pound. Other Indians drove the buffalo between the narrowing lines, where the waiting hunters shouted and waved their blankets at the excited animals, urging them through the opening into the pound. Not many buffalo were destroyed in the pounds, which held a comparatively small number—probably from forty to sixty buffalo. The last buffalo pound in Saskatchewan was made by Assiniboine Indians over a century ago on a site south of what is now Sintaluta.



Indians' Uses of Buffalo

An excellent account of the making of a buffalo pound is contained in the Autumn, 1948, issue of *Saskatchewan History*

To the Indian women fell the hard work of preparing the skins for clothing. First the hair was scraped from the hides, which were then tanned and made soft and pliable. Then a complete Indian costume, including moccasins, was fashioned by the squaw, who used a needle made from buffalo bone and thread made from buffalo sinews. Several hides were needed to make one complete outfit.

Buffalo skins covered the framework of their houses, made blankets, snowshoes, and harness, even cradles for papooses. They served for all purposes of cloth and leather. Sometimes antelopes were killed, and then these smaller hides were used. The northern woods Indians depended upon the caribou and moose, and upon fur-bearing animals.

Buffalo meat was the chief food of the Indians, and they ate great quantities of it. The Hudson's Bay Company allowed each man eight pounds of fresh meat per day. When meat was fresh the Indians stuffed themselves with all they could eat. But meat will not stay fresh for long, so they made pemmican for use when fresh meat or other food was scarce.

In the making of pemmican, lean meat was first dried in smoke until it was hard. Then it was pounded into small pieces. Next, the meat was placed in leather bags and mixed with crushed wild berries, often saskatoons. Melted fat was poured over the mixture, which was allowed to harden in the bag. Meat thus prepared would keep for months, or even years. It was so nourishing that two and one-half pounds of it were enough for a day's allowance.

The Indians were not the only ones who depended upon pemmican. Because it would keep so long, and because it took so much less of it for each person, the fur traders and early travellers used to carry it with them on their long trips. But very few white men would admit that they liked its taste.

The buffalo was hunted so eagerly by bands of white men, sometimes only for its tongue or hide, that the great herds began to diminish. The coming of the railway, and the ploughing of even the first few farms, helped to break up the herds. The winter of 1880 seemed to be particularly hard on them. Whatever the cause of their disappearance, there was scarcely a buffalo to be seen on the prairies by 1885.

From what has been said it will be clear that the buffalo furnished the Indian with his chief means of keeping alive. They furnished food, shelter, clothing, even fuel. Wherefore, when the buffalo began to disappear from the prairies, hard times faced the Indians. Many of them actually starved, and the government had to send supplies of food to the Indian reserves.

In order that these great animals should not disappear completely from the earth, the Canadian Government tried to establish a herd that would be protected from hunters. They were able to buy several hundred buffalo from a man who had raised them on his ranch in Montana. These they placed in a huge fenced park at Wainwright, in Alberta. When they had too many at Wainwright, they shipped a herd to the north, near Slave Lake, where they now roam wild with other (wood) buffalo of that region. The waters of the Peace and Slave Rivers and Great Slave Lake keep

the buffalo within that region, which is known as Wood Buffalo Park. There are no longer any buffalo at Wainwright, but a small herd may be seen at the wild animal park at Banff.

What a sad and cruel ending to the history of the North American bison!



*Saskatchewan Bureau of Publications*

**Buffalo**



## The Coming of the White Man

THE WHITE MAN brought great changes to the lives of the Indians. The Crees in the wooded country were very friendly. These tribes brought their furs to the white traders and received metal weapons and tools in return.

When guns and horses were introduced to the Indians, their methods of hunting and of living were greatly changed. Metal knives and tools took the place of their crude stone implements, and from the traders they could buy blankets, woven from sheep's wool. Till that time they had obtained all their food from the land around them, now a few furs could be exchanged for bacon, flour, or tobacco.

Not everything the white man brought to the Indian was good for him. Before the coming of the early traders and settlers, smallpox was unknown among the Indians, who readily fell victims to the dread disease which ravaged the settlements. The Indians were not, of course, vaccinated against smallpox, and large numbers of them died. Liquor, too, was very harmful to the red men and caused much trouble and disorder until finally the Canadian government forbade its sale to the natives. This law was well enforced by the North West Mounted Police after the formation of the force.

## THE FUR TRADERS

It was an English explorer, Henry Hudson, who discovered Hudson Bay. On the shores of the Bay he saw his first Canadian Indian, and he traded a knife, a mirror, and a few buttons for two beaver skins.

In 1670, when the Hudson's Bay Company was formed, it was not intended that it should deal only in furs. The Company was supposed to open up the country by bringing out settlers to colonize it. But they found that trading in furs and bringing out settlers did not go well together. Can you think of a reason why? Which of the two undertakings would be more profitable to the Company?

At first the traders were quite satisfied with the furs the Indians brought down the rivers to them. But it was soon evident that they must make a greater effort if they were to win the friendship, and the furs, of the Indians in the interior of the country, up the Churchill River, and the Nelson, and the Saskatchewan. It was believed that there was an abundance of fur, especially beaver, in this region, which included the northern half of what is now Saskatchewan. The beaver was very much in demand, not only for fur coats, but because beaver hats were the fashion in the cities of America and Europe.

Fur traders now began to leave the shores of Hudson Bay and go inland to the Indian's own country in search of furs. In so doing they found new rivers and lakes, and discovered country which until then was unknown to the white man.

The Hudson's Bay Company needed a man who would go into the Indian country, make friends with the natives, and bargain with them to bring their furs down to York Factory. Not every one could do this, for the Indians amongst whom he would go had never known white men, and their confidence would have to be won.

For the undertaking, the officials of the company chose Henry Kelsey, an employee of the Company at York Factory. Kelsey was born in London in 1670, the year the Company was formed. He was poor and had little education, but he had seen Radisson bring a cargo of furs to London, and he had been filled with a desire to go out to the Fur Country.

When he was fourteen, he came out to York Factory to work for the Company. He quickly made friends with the Indians. He learned their language, and spent a great deal of time with them. They taught him the ways of the country, and how to "live on the land" while he travelled. Once he made a difficult journey with a message from the Factor to a new post two hundred miles away.

Stories of his friendship with the Indians, and the report of his successful journey, reached the Company's headquarters in London. Henry Kelsey was only twenty years of age when he was chosen to make the journey to secure the trade of the far-off Assiniboine Indians.

In 1690 Kelsey, with several Assiniboines who had come to the fort to trade, set out up the Hayes River. They crossed overland to the Nelson and finally reached the

Saskatchewan. At a point which was probably near the present town of The Pas, he made camp. From here he travelled among the Indians, hunting and trapping with them through the winter so successfully that in the spring he was able to send to York Factory a fleet of canoes laden with furs. The governor sent back word that he should go on.

Kelsey and his friends found the trees of the forest thinning out as they travelled on up the Saskatchewan. Finally they reached the prairies, the home of the prairie tribes and of the buffalo. Can you imagine how it would feel to be the first white man ever to see a herd of buffalo feeding on the plains? Kelsey had been through many adventures—escapes from bears, meetings with strange Indians, and portages around waterfalls, he had even been lost in a blizzard—but here was the greatest adventure of all, his first sight of the buffalo and the prairies. The point he had reached was north of the Touchwood Hills and east of Saskatoon, so that he was really the discoverer of Saskatchewan.

He spent the winter on the prairies north-east of Saskatoon, hunting buffalo to make pemmican for his return journey, and, of course, gathering furs from the Assinibones.

#### PIERRE LA VÉRENDRYE, EXPLORER FOR THE FRENCH

The next explorer to reach Saskatchewan was not sent by the Hudson's Bay Company, but he, too, had been sent to find furs. He was the son of Pierre la Vérendrye, a Frenchman, the only one of the important explorers of Canada to be born in this country.

Pierre la Vérendrye's chief ambition was to secure all of the rich fur trade of the Northwest for the French fur traders.



Journées d'été de Valenciennes

in Eastern Canada. He longed to see the great fur cargoes leaving Montreal and Quebec on their way to France. Until this time western furs had been sent out by the English traders through Hudson Bay to England.

In 1731 Verendrye began his explorations westward. Aided by his sons and his nephew, he built forts in the country between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg. He made a number of journeys, and each journey took him farther west. He found that Lake Winnipeg was not the Western Sea, as he had hoped, but he did not give up. The French governor of Canada kept urging him to continue his explorations, and the merchants wanted more furs.

He went from the Red River to visit the Mandan Indians on the prairies and along the Missouri River, and was again disappointed when he found that the Missouri flowed south, not west.

The Vérendryes went north on Lake Winnipeg and entered the Saskatchewan River. They built a fort at The Pas and travelled for some distance up the Saskatchewan.

Vérendrye's journeys were of great value to the French. He had secured for them the fur trade of the Indians from Lake Superior to the prairies. In the West, French fur traders were now the rivals of the Hudson's Bay Company.

#### RIVALRY BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH TRADERS

Henry Kelsey had opened up new land for the Hudson's Bay Company, but for many years no further exploration had been carried on by the Company.

But now they had rivals for the fur trade. The French were building trading posts throughout the West. The two posts that did most harm to the Company's trade were Fort à la Corne, on the Saskatchewan River north of where Melfort is to-day, and a fort at The Pas. These forts commanded the trade coming down the Saskatchewan.

To prevent their profits slipping away to Montreal and Quebec, the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1754, sent Anthony Henday to find some way of regaining the trade of the Indians on the Saskatchewan. All that we know of Henday's early life is that he was outlawed for smuggling along the southern coast of England. In 1750 he joined the Hudson's Bay Company and became one of its most valuable and trusted servants.

With his Indian guides, Henday set out up the Hayes River from York Factory. He crossed over to the Nelson River and then to the Saskatchewan. He reached The Pas with its French fort, Paskoyac, and soon afterwards he left



*After sketch from National Archives*

**Cumberland House**

his canoes on the Carrot River, striking out on foot over the prairies into the buffalo country. Travelling slowly among the Indians through the South Saskatchewan River country, he passed near the sites of the present cities of Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Battleford. Gathering furs as he went, he invited the Indians to bring their furs to York Factory.

His long journey west and south took him to the Red Deer River and the camps of the Blackfeet Indians, in the foothills of the Rockies. He was the first white man to visit them, and they were as curious about him as he was about them. White men who visited the Blackfeet Indians

in later years told of their fierce, unfriendly ways, but Henday found them kind and hospitable, and he spent the winter among them.

In the spring he returned to York Factory. He reported that the Indians, though friendly, refused to make the long journey to York Factory when they could sell their furs at the nearby French forts. He told the Company that if they wished to keep the Indian trade, they must build inland forts.

Accordingly, in 1774, Samael Hearn built the Company's first inland post at Cumberland House on the Saskatchewan River. That is the oldest permanent settlement in Saskatchewan. If you look at the map you will see what a good location this was. The post was on the route of the fur brigades going to the Great Lakes, and close to the water routes to the forts on Hudson Bay. It was easily reached by the Indians of three tribes. Cumberland House was so well situated that it has remained in use ever since its establishment.

A very interesting story of the fur traders in Saskatchewan is told by A. S. Morton in the story, "French and English in the Interior", in the book *Under Western Skies*. He tells the story of many men of whom we know very little, but who were probably the first white men to visit the sites of the present towns of Shellbrook, Codette, Meota, Duck Lake, and Wakaw.

#### RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO COMPANIES

Rivalry with the French traders ceased in 1763 when Canada was won by the British, but other traders were





trying to get a share of the western furs. In 1763 a group of eastern traders united to form the North West Company.

Once again the Saskatchewan furs were intercepted on their way to the Bay, and sent to Montreal instead.

Chief among the partners of the North West Company were the Frobisher brothers, who built forts along Vérendrye's route from Winnipeg up to the Saskatchewan. Another important member was Alexander Mackenzie, the explorer of the north-west of Canada. Others were Duncan McGillivray, Simon Fraser, David Thompson, and Peter Pond.

The rivalry between the two companies brought about a very thorough knowledge of the geography of Saskatchewan. Every river and lake where furs might be obtained was explored. A member of the Hudson's Bay Company made an excellent survey of the Saskatchewan, which resulted in the making of very accurate maps. It should be noted that Saskatchewan was explored from the north, not from the south, as we might expect from the fact that most of the present population lives in the south.

Competition between the two companies was finally brought to an end in 1821 when they were united under the name of the Hudson's Bay Company.

#### THE TRADERS

The benefits of the union were soon seen. Where there were too many trading posts, unnecessary ones were abandoned, and the ones that remained were put in good condition. Now that there was no longer rivalry between the white men, the Indians received better treatment, and once again they trusted and respected the white traders.



*Preparing pemmican*

In the days of the fur trade, life along the Saskatchewan was seldom dull. From Edmonton to the Great Lakes, and then on to Montreal, the route of the traders followed the rivers. The voyageurs were colourful and romantic figures. Their powerful bodies seemed almost to be a part of their canoes, and no journey was too long when, with a song, they put rhythm and vigour into their paddling. Their arrival at the trading posts was an excuse for celebration, and so was their departure. Traders, Indians, women, children, dogs, guns, and bagpipes—all helped to welcome the arrival of the "fur brigade", or to wish them good-bye.

Food was always a problem, for a large supply made freight heavier and travel slower. Just as we have gasoline stations along our highways, so the fur traders had food

stations at convenient places along their route. In the West there was pemmican. When they reached the northern end of Lake Winnipeg they had fish, for a change. Along the Rainy River, the buffalo hunts had provided a further supply of pemmican. Also along the Rainy River wild rice grew plentifully, and the Indians used to gather it in by rowing their canoes into the wet lands where it grew, then knocking the grain from the plants into the bottom of the canoe.

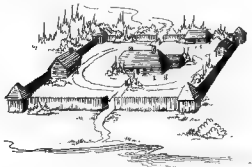
But always pemmican was the main food. When the rich Montreal traders entertained their winter partners at the best banquet of the year, for a special treat they served pemmican brought from the Saskatchewan country.

Let us visit one of the early trading posts. Just as our present stores are built on the busiest streets of the cities, so the trading posts were built on the highways of the time—the rivers. For protection, a palisade wall surrounded the post. Lookouts, or bastions, stood at each corner of the wall, or sometimes at only two corners, so that the approach of enemies could be seen. A gate in the wall nearest the water opened upon a courtyard. Here were the houses of the traders, the best one, of course, belonging to the Chief Factor. A space in front of the houses had a flag pole, and it was here that the Indians were received with the ceremony they loved. Supplies of trade goods were kept at the post, chiefly blankets, knives, traps, guns, beads, tobacco, and cotton print. The beaver skin was the medium of trade. Furs and trade goods were worth so many "beavers".

The chief officer at the trading post was the Factor, and under him were the traders. No one but the Factor and the traders was allowed to talk to the Indians. They

flattered the natives with gifts and many attentions, so that they might win their friendship and their furs. When the Indians gathered about the fort for a ceremonial visit, the Factor brought out tobacco, powder, or knives as gifts. Many French traders gave or sold liquor to the Indians, but no rum was changed for beaver at the Hudson's Bay Company forts.

Trading posts played an important part in the opening of the West. Sometimes the white men treated the Indians unfairly, but there are many instances of their kindly interest. We like to remember how the Factor at Cumberland opened his post for the treatment of stricken Indians during the smallpox outbreak of 1781.



Typical Hudson's Bay Company Fort

## Settlement of the Prairies

### THE END OF COMPANY RULE IN RUPERT'S LAND

**I**N 1867 FOUR COLONIES of Canada united to form the Dominion of Canada. These colonies were all in the East. They were Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Three other colonies became provinces shortly afterwards. Manitoba in 1870, British Columbia in 1871, and Prince Edward Island in 1873.

Between the Red River and British Columbia was a great stretch of prairie land, with few white settlers. It was part of Rupert's Land, still owned and governed by the Hudson's Bay Company. Since the coming of settlers would ruin the fur trade, the Company could not be expected to encourage settlement. It was evident that, in the interests of the Dominion, and of the West, control should be taken from the Company.

In 1869, therefore, almost exactly two hundred years after the founding of the Company, Rupert's Land was sold to Canada.

A very large price was paid

(1) A sum of money, about \$1,500,000.

(2) More important, the Company kept all its trading posts with 500 acres of land around each post.

(3) Most important, the Company received one-twentieth of all land in the "fertile belt" south of the North Saskatchewan River. This last item explains why you see one and three-quarter sections in each township marked "Hudson's Bay Company".

The Company no longer had a monopoly, but they continued the fur trade. Their trading posts grew into community stores. Throughout the West, in important cities, we now see large modern Hudson's Bay Company department stores. In the North Country there are many small posts, where Indians and Eskimos may bring their furs as of old.

#### THE SETTLEMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

For several years following the purchase of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company, very few people settled in that region. There were a number of reasons.

(1) There was no railway across the prairies until 1885. Before that, most settlers had to come through the United States to St. Paul, then down the Red River to Winnipeg, and on to their new homes by Red River cart or covered wagon. In good weather it took a month to drive from Winnipeg to Prince Albert.

(2) Much of the land was in the hands of companies, not fur trading companies now, but land companies, and they were more interested in making money on their land than in bringing out settlers. One of the few settlements started by companies was Saskatoon, started by the Temperance Colonization Company.



*Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture*

#### **Swathing Wheat**

**The flat fertile prairie land was a great attraction to immigrants from Eastern Canada and Europe**

(3) Little was done to encourage settlers to come to the West until after 1885. After that time much of the colonizing was done by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

The first plan for the railway was that it would take the northern route from Winnipeg to Edmonton, so the earliest settlers in Saskatchewan took up land along the proposed line, to Prince Albert, Battleford, and west. The first farm settlements in the province were therefore, in the north of the prairie belt, and in the park lands.



## THE LAND SURVEY SYSTEM

The arrival of the settlers in this area meant that some system of surveying and marking the land must be adopted, for it was the only method by which location and ownership of land could be recorded. The system followed in Saskatchewan was the same as that which had been started in Manitoba as early as 1869.

The surveyors started at the boundary of the United States to work north, and at the meridians of longitude to work west. The Survey Meridians which affect Saskatchewan are the Second ( $102^{\circ}$  Longitude), the Third ( $106^{\circ}$ ) and the Fourth ( $110^{\circ}$ ). The Fourth Meridian is the boundary between Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The land was divided into blocks, or townships, six miles along each side. Each township thus consisted of thirty-six sections of land, each section a square mile in size, which were always numbered in exactly the same way. The sections were further divided into quarter sections of 160 acres each.

The first townships start at the international boundary, and the numbers increase as they go north. The townships run in rows, from east to west, and each row is called a range.

Now let us suppose you are taking up a quarter section of land for a homestead. The location which you are given is as follows: N. E. quarter, Section 14, Tp. 4, Rge. 2, west of the 3rd Meridian. Do you understand what it means? Written more fully, it would be: The north-east quarter section of Section 14, in the fourth township from

the international boundary, in the second range of townships west of the 3rd Meridian, which is marked  $106^{\circ}$  on your map

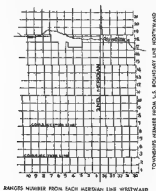


Diagram showing system of township surveys. Because the meridians converge toward the pole, it was necessary to make correction "jogs" in the north-south lines to keep each township the full six miles in width.

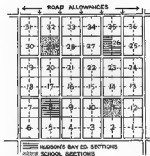


Diagram showing the survey system of each township. Sections are numbered in the same way in each township. Broken lines show the subdivision of each section into quarter sections (the area granted for each free homestead). Note the road allowances running north and south every mile, east and west every two miles. The diagram also shows the land set aside in each township for school land, and the land reserved for the Hudson's Bay Company. These were the same in each township.

## THE NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

In our section on the buffalo, we told of the disappearance of the great herds about 1880. Without their main source of livelihood, the Indians were faced with starvation, and they blamed the white man.

Along the boundary that stretched between the United States and the North West Territories, trouble was brewing. In the early days of the American West there had been much lawlessness. Indian wars had brought death to both settlers and red men, and now the Canadian West was threatened with the same disorders. Liquor smugglers came across the international boundary and went amongst the Indian tribes with wagon-loads of whiskey, and drunken Indians were impossible to control. At Cypress Hills, an Indian camp was attacked by traders who claimed that their horses had been stolen. Forty natives were massacred, others were wounded, and the rest were driven from their homes. Unrest and dissatisfaction with white government was widespread among the tribes.

Something had to be done or the West would be no place for settlers. In 1871 the North West Mounted Police were organized. This was a group of three hundred mounted men, chosen for their youth, strength, fearlessness, and intelligence. They had to be sure shots and good horsemen. Their uniforms were striking, with red jackets, dark blue trousers with a yellow stripe down the side, and little pill-box caps—different from the large hats they wear to-day.

They needed strength and courage, for it was a difficult task to enforce law and order over thousands of square

miles of prairie. Wrongdoers feared them, not only because punishment would be severe, but because it was sure. No man seemed able to escape the Police, once they were on his trail. The Indians came to look upon them as friends. The whiskey smugglers were driven out of the country, white men were punished as surely as red men, and in time of trouble Indians looked to the "Red Coats" for help and protection. Through them, white men regained the respect and friendship of the Indians, and they did truly live up to their motto 'Uphold the Right'.

The first headquarters of the Mounted Police was at Swan River, Manitoba, then at Fort Macleod in Alberta, later at Fort Walsh, but, finally, Regina became the permanent choice. At first their work lay chiefly along the



*Uniform of original N.W.M.P.*

international boundary line toward the Rockies, but new posts were opened as settlement of the West spread.

We owe them much for the part they played in our history, and, once more, let us remind ourselves of the debt. They brought law and order to the Canadian West, they gained for us the friendship of the Indians, so that they did not unite in attacking the white settlers during the Saskatchewan Rebellion, they aided in the building of the first railway, in the far North they acted as postmasters and customs officers, they checked on the safety of trappers and miners in lonely places, and in many other ways they helped to carry on the work of government.

At the time of their formation they were called North West Mounted Police. In 1904 the word "Royal" was added in honour of their service, and when their work spread to all of Canada, they became known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. At the same time their headquarters was moved to Ottawa, but the old red barracks in Regina is still western headquarters and recruits are trained there.

#### THE INDIAN TREATIES

It was evident that the white man had come to the West to stay, and the problem facing the government was to find a fair method of dealing with the Indians for their lands. Treaties were made with the various Indian tribes by which they agreed to settle on certain lands which were known as reserves. In return, each chief received \$25 00 a year, every man, woman, and child received \$5 00 a year, the chief was given a medal and a suit of clothes, each family of five was given a section of land (640 acres) within the

reserve, they were promised ammunition, fish nets, farm implements, and live stock.

The disappearance of the buffalo made the Indians more willing to accept the terms of the white man. Some chiefs signed the treaties at once. Others, including Big Bear, Poundmaker, and Piapot, at first refused to settle down on reserves.

After the treaties were signed, the Indians had to be made to realize that the reserve was now their home, and that they could no longer roam freely over the prairies. They were to learn, also, that the settler's cattle were his own, and not to be hunted or killed. It was not a natural life for the Indians. They could no longer live off the buffalo, and they did not take kindly to tilling the soil.

They expected more than they received from the treaty promises of the government. Whether or not they were right in saying that the government had not fulfilled its part of the bargain, they were underfed, ill-clothed, and unhappy on the reserves. They said that the tools and wagons supplied to them were too few and of such poor quality that they were soon broken. On the other hand, the Indians were not farmers, and did not know how to take care of the implements. No doubt the Indian Agents had difficulty in keeping them supplied. No doubt, also, the Indians found it hard to manage domestic animals, and to raise crops successfully.

These were difficulties which would disappear with time, as the Indians adapted themselves to their new life. However, the government was soon to be faced with more serious unrest among the half-breeds, and there was always the danger that the dissatisfied Indians might join them.

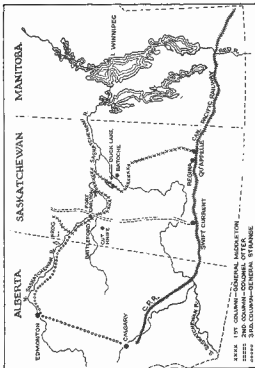
## The Saskatchewan Rebellion -1885

**M**ANY CHANGES TOOK PLACE between 1873 and 1885. The land had been surveyed, and was ready for homesteading. The Mounted Police had been organized to keep law and order. More settlers were coming to the West to take up land. Towns, police posts, trading posts, and missions were widely scattered over the prairies. A railway was almost completed across Canada. The buffalo herds were gone. The Indians had agreed to settle on reserves, although many of them were dissatisfied with their new life.

At the time of the Red River Rebellion, many of the half-breed Métis had left Manitoba and settled in the territory of Saskatchewan. They had gone in before the land survey was made, and had laid out their narrow farms along the rivers and lakes. When the survey was made, they feared they would lose their lands because they had no deeds for them. The Indians were being given lands, farm implements, and seed, but the Métis were getting nothing.

They began to send petitions to Ottawa, asking that each half-breed be given an amount of land equal to that





given to the Manitoba Métis. The Dominion Government was slow in making this grant of land. The Métis were impatient. They thought the Government was refusing their request.

They wanted someone to lead them in the fight for what they thought was their right, so they sent to Montana for Louis Riel to return as their leader.

#### LOUIS RIEL

Riel had led the Métis uprising along the Red River fifteen years before. For his part in the Rebellion he had been condemned to death, but he had fled to the United States. It is hard to say just what motives led Riel to return. He seems to have been convinced that the Métis had just grievances, and he may have thought this occasion a good chance for revenge.

St. Laurent, near Duck Lake, was the chief Métis settlement in Saskatchewan, and the "president" of the colony was Gabriel Dumont, one of those who had gone to recall Louis Riel.

Riel spoke at many gatherings, arousing his listeners against the government. He drew up a "Bill of Rights" for the Métis, and sent it to Ottawa. The Indians became excited, holding great meetings and war-dances. White settlers were afraid of a general uprising, but the Government refused to take any action, either to satisfy the complaints or to prevent the meetings.

Riel had soon so stirred up the excitable Métis that he felt he was now ready to take matters into his own hands.

#### THE SASKATCHEWAN REBELLION

At Fort Carlton, on the North Saskatchewan, there was a Mounted Police Post in charge of Major Crozier. Riel, at nearby Batoche, demanded that he give up the fort with its supplies of ammunition. Crozier refused, and set out with a detachment of Police to secure the supplies at Duck Lake. The half-breeds were warned of his coming, and under Gabriel Dumont, Riel's military leader, they met the Police at a point where they had the advantage. It was war, at last. In a battle lasting little more than half an hour, ten Police were killed and thirteen wounded, while four Metis and one Indian lost their lives. The Government force was defeated and had to retreat.

That night the Police left Fort Carlton and journeyed with their wounded to Prince Albert, where the white settlers had gathered for safety. The first encounter had been a victory for the rebels, and the Indians were very much impressed and emboldened.

North-west of Battleford, Big Bear tried to keep his Indians quiet, but his war chief and many of the bolder braves were all for an attack on the white population. They thought that if they drove out the settlers, the buffalo and their old way of life would come back.



*Public Archives*

Louis Riel

At Frog Lake, between Battleford and Edmonton, they shot down nine white men, burned the homes of the white settlers, and set off for Fort Pitt. Mr. Cameron, the Hudson's Bay Company trader at Frog Lake, the only white man who was not shot, was taken prisoner by Big Bear. Later he wrote an interesting story of the time he spent with the Indians. The book was called *The War Trail of Big Bear*.

At Fort Pitt, Big Bear was able to keep his men from attacking the Mounted Police. He persuaded the Hudson's Bay men to surrender with their families, and the Police under Francis Dickens, son of the famous novelist, escaped to Battleford. No harm came to the traders, and further bloodshed was prevented, but rebel victories had a very unsettling effect on the Indians.

News of the outbreak had been flashed across Canada, and about five thousand soldiers under General Middleton were sent west over the new Canadian Pacific Railway. The plan was to get the soldiers as quickly as possible to the scene of the trouble. Middleton divided his force into three columns. He led the first, leaving the railway at Qu'Appelle to go across country to Prince Albert. Colonel Otter went from Swift Current to Battleford, and General Strange was to go from Calgary to Edmonton, and on to Big Bear's country.

General Middleton's detachment went overland till they reached the Saskatchewan at Clark's Crossing, 20 miles north of Saskatoon. They followed the river to Fish Creek. Here they met the rebels under Gabriel Dumont. In the battle which followed, Dumont had finally to withdraw, but victory was not easy and Middleton was delayed for two weeks before he could go on to Batoche.

Colonel Otter, with the middle column, attacked Poundmaker's camp at Cut Knife Creek near Battleford. The Indian chief had his small band of warriors concealed among the bushes on the hillsides and in the ravines. Although the soldiers had machine guns, they were no match for the Indians, and Colonel Otter had to order a retreat. His forces had suffered many casualties, and there would have been many more if Poundmaker had not prevented his braves from further attacks upon the retreating soldiers.

In the meantime, Middleton had at last gone on to attack Batoche. The Métis under Riel had dug trenches, and for three days they defended their position. Middleton had the advantage of guns and ammunition, and the Métis were unable to hold out against his force.

Louis Riel escaped for a few days but he was soon taken prisoner. Dumont fled to the United States. Middleton went on to Battleford where Poundmaker surrendered to him. Big Bear was pursued and finally gave himself up.

The rebellion was at an end. Riel and eight Indians who had taken active part in the uprising were tried at Regina and sentenced to be hanged. Big Bear and Poundmaker both insisted that they had kept their tribes from more serious widespread attacks on the white men, but they were sentenced to terms of three years in prison. Imprisonment was especially painful for these proud chiefs. Although they were released before they had completed their terms neither lived long after being freed.

Now that the trouble had ended, the Dominion government granted lands and deeds to the Métis, just what had been demanded at first. Loyal Indians were presented with gifts, and were soon as friendly as before the uprising.

## The Growth of the Province

### THE BUILDING OF THE RAILWAYS

**T**HE BUILDING OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY across Canada was a tremendous undertaking. The provinces and settlements of that time were widely separated, and the railway united them. William van Horne was the builder of the road, and he had to overcome difficulties that would have stopped most men.

The road was nearly three thousand miles long. It ran from Montreal to Vancouver over swamps and forests, prairies and mountains. On the prairies, building was faster than in other places, but supplies had to be brought great distances, blizzards and cold weather made the winters difficult, and at times Indians interfered with the work.

An interesting story is told of one Indian attempt to halt the building of the road. Piapot, a Cree chief, pitched his tent on the right-of-way near Maple Creek. When the railway builders asked him to move, he paid no attention to them. The Mounted Police were called. Only two policemen could be sent. When they arrived, the chief still refused to move from his tent. Then the Sergeant of the Police told Piapot he had fifteen minutes in which to get his tent out of the way. When the time was up, the Sergeant kicked the poles that held the tipi, and down it fell on the

chief. He did the same to the other tents in the camp. Before the Indians had quite recovered from their surprise they were on their way to another camp-site.

At last the road was completed, and in June, 1886, the first trans-Canada train left Montreal on its way to Port Moody over the longest railway in the world. In the following year the line was completed to Vancouver.

The C.P.R. crossed southern Saskatchewan, passing through Regina and Moose Jaw. At once settlers began to flow into this part of the province, for people wanted to live near the railway. Here was room and opportunity for a large population. Railways must have people who need goods brought to them. So the C.P.R. opened the gates to the West, and offered cheap rates to immigrants from Europe who would settle on the prairies.

Early in the century two more railways were built across Canada. These were the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific. They crossed Saskatchewan north of the C.P.R., thus opening up other parts of the Province to farming. These two lines later united, and became the Canadian National Railway.

#### EARLY SETTLERS

For the first few years after the rebellion of 1885, settlement in most parts of the prairies was slow. About 1900 the land began to fill more rapidly, and there was a rush for homesteads.

Any man over eighteen, and any woman who was head of a family, could take up a quarter-section of land. They paid a fee of ten dollars. They had to live on their homestead



A small house such as this was built by some early settlers.



Log house under construction near Montreal, 1850.



for six months out of each year for three years, build a house, and grow a crop. Then the land was theirs.

Early settlers came by rail to the town which was nearest their homestead. They brought only the most necessary equipment. If they had no horses, they usually bought a team of oxen.

As soon as possible the newcomers loaded their supplies on wagons and set off for their new homes. The journey was long and slow. The only roads were rough, winding, prairie trails. No bridges had been built, and rivers were forded or crossed on scows. Wet weather made mudholes where the wagons sank to the axles.

The first settlers for Saskatoon arrived in Moose Jaw in 1883. The men came in freight cars which were loaded with their household effects. The women came in colonist cars attached to the same train.

It was April, but three days after the long wagon train had started on its 200-mile journey, a blizzard began. It lasted for three days. The horses suffered so greatly that the wagons had to be lightened. The women saw much of their precious furniture left behind. Food, seed, lumber, and machinery must go on. Through sand hills and good grass country, up and down steep hills, they continued the long haul. One little boy died from pneumonia and was buried beside the trail. Finally the weary travellers reached the high banks of the Saskatchewan where their new homes would be.

When a new family arrived, building a house was always the first task. The few houses built of lumber were covered with tar paper to keep out the cold. Those who lived in a wooded country built houses of logs, with sod or thatched

roofs. Many made their first homes entirely of sod. These were always cheaper than wood houses, cooler in summer, and warmer in winter.

Rabbits, prairie chickens, and wild ducks were shot to provide food. Wild fruit was abundant in certain districts. People seldom made the long journey to town. They learned to make the best of what they had.

There was very little money. Men used to carry freight for their neighbours. In this way they earned enough to last them until they could sell their wheat. Regular freight routes were established between Qu'Appelle and Prince Albert, and between Swift Current and Battleford.

In spite of hardships, pioneers enjoyed simple good times. There was always a warm welcome for visitors. People learned to depend upon themselves and to help each other.

#### NATIONALITIES

About fifty years ago, in 1901, the population of Saskatchewan was only 90,000. Fifty years is a short time in the history of a province, yet already there are nearly ten times as many people. Who are the new settlers? From what countries have they come? And why did they leave their old homes to settle in this far-distant land?

Less than half the population are people of British descent, that is, people whose parents or grandparents came from England, Ireland, Scotland, or Wales. That means that the original home of more than half of the people in Saskatchewan was in some country of Europe other than the British Isles. The countries from which most settlers came

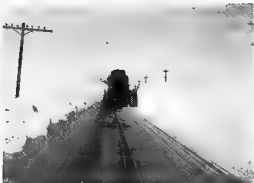
were, Germany, the Ukraine, France, Norway, Poland, Russia, and Sweden

They came because they thought Canada was a land of promise. Many had been unhappy and oppressed in their own land. Many had never owned even a few acres of land, but had worked for a rich landowner. They wanted a free way of life, laws to protect their families and their property, a system of free education, and the chance to prosper if they worked hard. They knew they would find plenty of room here, and free land to homestead.

Most of those who took up land in Saskatchewan had been farmers in their own country. They soon became used to the differences in climate, crops, and soil, and because they worked hard, they became good farmers. Each group had something to give to Canada. Perhaps it was the exciting music of their native songs and dances, or their colourful national hand-work and embroidery. The needle-work of the Ukrainian women is especially beautiful. They had been taught to take a pride in doing careful work.

At first these immigrants were lonely on the wide prairies. They settled in small communities where they lived as they had in the old land, keeping to their own language, dress, and customs. Some of them did not make much effort to become good Canadian citizens, or even to learn to speak English. However, as the years passed, and their children went to public schools, they began to adopt Canadian ways.

We hope they will not lose their fine native qualities, but we want them to become good Canadians, and we must do our part in bringing that about. They must learn to speak our language, obey our laws, and honour our flag and what it stands for.



Rotary snow plough working on No. 6 Highway

Let us read the stories of two of the groups who settled in Saskatchewan

#### THE DOUKHOBORS

In 1899 several thousands of Doukhobors came from Russia to settle in Saskatchewan. Their chief settlements were near Yorkton, and around Blaine Lake. They belonged to a brotherhood that did not believe in war, and the Dominion government promised them exemption from military service.

Because they did not believe in government, or in schools, at times they have been troublesome. They were given land according to the usual homestead plan with the under-

standing that they would obey Canadian laws and take the oath of allegiance to the King. Many refused to do this when the time came, in 1906, and some of their land was taken back by the government. Many who were dissatisfied with conditions in Saskatchewan moved to British Columbia, near Nelson where Peter Veregin, their leader, bought land for them.

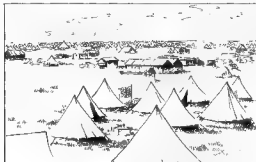
There was much division among them. Some of them left the community and became independent progressive Canadian farmers whose sons have become doctors, lawyers, and school teachers. Some held on to their belief that land and all their possessions should be held in common, and some became part of an extreme group known as the Sons of Freedom.



Carrying patients to Saskatchewan Government Air Ambulance Plane

## THE BARR COLONISTS

In 1903 a group of about three thousand settlers from the British Isles arrived in Canada. From Mr Barr, an Anglican minister, they had heard a glowing account of the opportunities for wealth in the Canadian West, and through him they took up homesteads and set out for this land of promise. They came by train to the village of Saskatoon, where they stopped long enough to outfit themselves for a further journey over the prairies. In Saskatoon they lived in tents, and when they set out on their two-hundred mile journey to the land they had taken up for homesteads, they went by wagons drawn by horses or oxen, knowing very little about driving either.



After photo by Dill. Courtesy San-Phoscar

Sketch of Barr colonists living in Tents at Saskatoon

The journey over the unbroken prairie would have been difficult enough for any one, but these people were strangers to pioneer life, and for them it was an ordeal. Finally they reached their homesteads. They began to build their homes and to plough the land. Unfortunately, a fire had destroyed the luxuriant growth of grass in the district, and feed for their animals was scarce. Those who could, built houses of lumber they had freighted from Saskatoon. Others spent the first winter in large tents. Edmonton was about the same distance away as Saskatoon, and they went there for supplies, or to Battleford, one hundred miles away.

A town grew up and they called it Lloydminster after Mr. Lloyd, another Anglican minister who was now their leader. When the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed, the boundary line ran down the main street of Lloydminster, so that the eastern part of the town is in Saskatchewan and the western part is in Alberta.

The settlement rejoiced on a day in August, 1905, when the tracks of the Canadian Northern Railway reached the town of Lloydminster. The long trips overland for supplies were no longer necessary.

#### FORMATION OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

After the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia had been formed, the land between and to the north was known as the North West Territory. At first the Territory was governed by a lieutenant-governor and a council. These were appointed by the government at Ottawa. They lived in Winnipeg and governed the Territory from there.

In 1868 a new lieutenant-governor and council were chosen, to meet at Battleford, the first capital of the North West Territory. In 1882 the capital was moved to Regina, on the new Canadian Pacific Railway.

When a railroad had been built across the prairies, and the land opened for homesteading people flocked to the West. In 1905, the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed, with their own governments at Edmonton and Regina. So, in the years from 1867 to 1905, Canada had grown from four provinces, all in the East, to nine provinces stretching from coast to coast.



Walter Scott  
First Premier of Saskatchewan



## Resources and Industries

### NATURAL RESOURCES

**W**HAT ARE THE NATURAL RESOURCES of Saskatchewan? In other words, what did nature give to the province as sources of wealth for man to develop?

Our study of the history of the West supplies us with an answer. The first white men found a very valuable resource in the wealth of furs in the north country. If they had been interested in lumbering at that time, they would have noted the timber growth in the fur country.

The first settlers were attracted to Saskatchewan by the promise of wealth from the greatest gift of nature—a fertile soil.

An air map of the northern half of the province shows countless rivers and lakes where fish abound.

Long ago nature provided for the cold prairie winters by laying up a supply of coal. There are other mineral resources, but development of the mines has only begun.



*Vertical Film Board*

Three combines at work on the farm of Tom Smith, Glamis, Sask. The old familiar stacks and stacks are disappearing.

#### AGRICULTURE

Saskatchewan's greatest resource is, of course, its fertile soil and the possibilities of wealth from its farms. Agriculture is the basic industry. Most of the people are farmers, in fact, seven out of every ten persons in Saskatchewan live on farms. In 1946 Saskatchewan was second among the nine provinces in the sale of farm products.

In China or Japan, where so many people live so close together, farms of two or three acres are common. Some Chinese cannot find even that much land, living instead on boats on the rivers, keeping chickens and pigs, as well as children, on this tiny space. In Ontario or British Columbia

many farms are forty to eighty acres, because people raise fruit and other products which can be produced in large quantities on that much land. Find out how much land makes an acre, and then think how much more an acre would produce in apples, or potatoes, than it does in wheat. A Saskatchewan farmer needs a large farm to grow wheat—perhaps three hundred and twenty acres, or even a full section of land, six hundred and forty acres.

When the first farmers came to the prairies they did not have to clear a space in the forest, as had the farmers in Eastern Canada, where trees had to be cut down and huge roots dug out before crops could be planted. In Saskatchewan they put the ploughshares into the soil, and the rich black loam was turned over in furrows.

#### SOIL

Our greatest natural resource is the soil, and the products of the soil are the greatest sources of food for the world. Conservation, that is the care and preservation of our natural resources, is the chief problem of Saskatchewan farmers, as it is of farmers everywhere.

The region known as the "Palliser Triangle" has the least rainfall of any part of the Prairie Provinces. Find the base of the triangle at the international boundary along the south of Saskatchewan and as far west as Waterton Lakes in Alberta. The two sides of the triangle extend to a point just west of Lloydminster.

About the middle of the last century, the British government sent Captain John Palliser to the Canadian West to investigate the possibilities of the land for farming. At that time the only white men here were fur traders. Great

herds of buffalo roamed the plains, and no plow had broken the long stretches of prairie grasses.

As a result of his journeys and his study of the West, Palliser made a report to the government. He had found that much of the land between the Red River and the Rockies was ideal for agriculture, but he did not advise grain growing in the "Palliser Triangle". He felt that this region should be left in grass, and that it would be more profitable to raise live stock than to break up the sod for crops.

When the land was opened for homesteading, his advice was unheeded. Soon much of the land was ploughed and planted. About the beginning of the century there was a world demand for wheat, and the treeless miles of rich loam on the prairies promised abundant harvests. The new land was fertile, and settlers poured in from the East. Millions of acres which should have been left in grasslands were planted with crops. As long as the rainfall was sufficient, farmers prospered. But records show that periods of drought occur from time to time.

During the 1930's there were many dry years when crops were very poor. Because there was not enough rain, there was not enough vegetation to protect the soil. High winds caused soil drifting and "dust bowl" conditions. Wind blowing over grassy prairies is clean, but in dry weather the dust rises over summerfallow or cultivated fields. The dust clouds we see are made of particles of soil, and this drifting has caused great damage to the fertile topsoil.

Some of the farmers of the drought area abandoned their farms. Of those who remained, many had to ask for relief. Municipal and provincial governments helped the farmers,

but the situation became so serious that the Dominion government had to come to the assistance of the western farmers.

#### THE P F R A

In 1935 the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act was passed. The P F R A programme was planned to make the best use of our soil resources and to improve farming methods. Lands where crops had failed repeatedly were to be re-grassed. Water resources on the prairies were to be conserved by storage dug-outs and small dams. Larger irrigation projects were to be undertaken by the government. The planting of trees was encouraged, to prevent soil drifting and evaporation of water. In short, the P F R A planned to repair the damages caused by bad methods of farming, and to conserve soil and water resources.

Final stage of soil erosion. Sand dunes cover land that was once under cultivation.

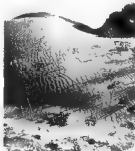


Photo by Saskatchewan Soil Survey



## SOIL SURVEY

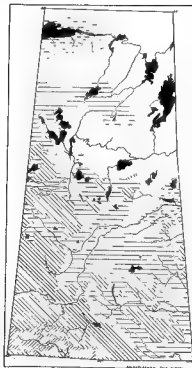
If you have ever looked for earth in which to pot house plants, you know that only certain kinds are suitable. All soils are not alike. They differ in fertility and in the capacity for holding moisture. Some are suited to certain crops and not to others. Some soils are rich in plant food, others are poor and unproductive.

Successful farmers do not simply buy a piece of land, plant a crop, and wait for harvest time. They look for a good soil which is suitable for the type of crop they wish to grow. In order to give the farmers information regarding the nature of the farm lands of the province, the Department of Soils at the University of Saskatchewan started, in 1921, to make a soil survey. Both the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture supported this work, which was carried on under the direction of Prof. J. Mitchell and others.

The chief purpose of the survey was to describe and classify the soils, and to make maps to show the nature of the soils in each locality of the settled parts of the province. By a study of the map, farmers can tell where to find heavy clay soil such as that around Regina, or silty clay loam, or

- |                                                |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 4 1. Short-grass prairie                       | 4. Mixed parkland, forest              |
| 2. Mixed prairie, more humid                   | 5. Mixed woodland and northern forests |
| 3. Parkland prairie                            | 6. Mixed forest and tundra             |
| v v v Pra-Cambrian outcrop, forest, and muskeg |                                        |
| = = = Northern boundary of soil survey         |                                        |

Map showing  
Physiography and  
Drainage



ELEVATIONS



BELOW 1000'



1000' 1300'



1300 2000



2000' 5000'



ABOVE 5000'



fine sandy loam, or, as more often happens, the farmer can tell what type of soil he has on his farm, and choose crops that are most likely to succeed. Its colour tells a great deal about the kind of soil, and in the survey the province was divided into brown, dark brown, black, and gray soil sections, as well as into areas which are "alkali", stony, or eroded.

The report also gives information about drainage, climate, and vegetation, how the grain can be transported and marketed, and what development has already been carried on in the different areas.

Because the soil is the most important resource of the province, farmers are advised how to make the best use of the land they already have, or intend to purchase. In the survey there is a section on farm problems such as soil drifting or *erosion*, fertilizers, summerfallow, and the conservation of land resources.

There is, in addition, a chapter on the history of soil or *geology*, which is written by Prof. F. H. Edmunds, of the Department of Geology, University of Saskatchewan.

The work of the P.F.R.A. was greatly assisted by the findings of the survey. This excellent work is kept up-to-date by further studies, with resulting additions and revisions.

#### GRAIN GROWING

The chief crop is wheat, and Saskatchewan grows the world's best, Number 1 Hard Wheat. Many World's Championships have been won by Saskatchewan farmers, perhaps the best known "Wheat King" being Seager Wheeler, of Rosthern.



Parkland prairie



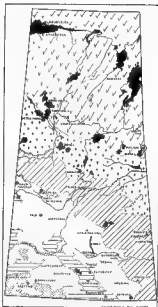
Meadow-wetland prairie - The dominant vegetation consists of grasses and sedges



Marshes dried north of Jackson Lake  
Excessively stony land, suitable only for grazing



Sand dunes north of Portland  
Sand grass and Russian thistle



Saskatchewan Land Survey

Showing land use and development of natural resources

Other important grain crops are oats, barley, and rye. Valuable crops other than grains are sunflowers, rapeseed, and flax, all grown for their oil.

Wheat is the most important product, so farmers are constantly seeking ways of increasing their crop and getting better prices. If the wheat which a farmer takes to the elevator is shrunken, or tough, or mixed with weeds, he will get a lower grade, and less money for it. He must plant only the best seed, so he looks for a variety which has good qualities. It should be hard, well filled, and free from weeds. It should ripen early to avoid frost. It should be rust-resistant.

When Dr. Charles Saunders developed Marquis Wheat, prairie farmers rejoiced, for it ripened a week earlier than other wheats, and yielded well. Since his time, men working in agricultural colleges and on experimental farms have produced varieties with the good qualities of Marquis, and which are earlier and more rust-resistant as well. These are Thatcher, Apex, Regent, and Renown.

Prairie towns are marked by their grain elevators, where thousands of bushels may be stored before the wheat is





Binder - Horse drawn



feeding sheaves into the separator of the threshing machine



The combine is replacing the older binder and threshing machine. The combine cuts, and threshes in one operation. The team at the left draws the grain away.



Familiar scene of prairie villages and towns is the row of elevators for storing and handling grain.

loaded on the railway. Larger cities, like Saskatoon and Moose Jaw, have huge storage elevators holding millions of bushels. Most of the wheat is shipped by railway to Port Arthur and Fort William, then by lake boats to other great storage elevators in Montreal, to be loaded on ocean-going boats for transportation overseas. Some of the wheat goes west to Vancouver. It has long been the hope of western farmers that the Churchill route could be used for shipping grain, thus saving time and money. If you would like to compare the distance from a Saskatchewan farm to England by the Great Lakes Route with that by the Hudson Bay route, be sure to use a globe map, not a flat one. You will find that Saskatoon is 1100 miles nearer to London by way of Churchill than it is by way of Montreal.

#### MIXED FARMING

A great many Saskatchewan farmers have come to believe that depending entirely on grain crops is like putting all their eggs in one basket. If the crops fail, they have little else to supply their needs. They have found the remedy in mixed farming—"mixing" grain growing and livestock raising.

The park land of the province, the section where grasslands are dotted with trees, is best suited to mixed farming, but the practice is extending over other parts of the southern half of Saskatchewan. Grain is grown, but the farmer has cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, or poultry, as well. Part of his grain crop is used as feed for his livestock, and he can sell milk, butter, meat, eggs, or wool. Bee-keeping is another



interesting farm sideline, the province selling about 2000 tons of honey a year.

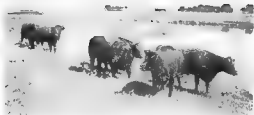
Farmers who raise only grain do not need many animals on their farms, the work being done by machinery—tractors, combines, trucks, etc. Those who raise animals have cheap, willing labour from the horses, meat and dairy products from cattle, they have pigs, and hens, and the pleasure and comfort of animal companions and friends. Raising animals has also the advantage of spreading the farmer's work over the year rather than having it come in a rush in spring and fall.

It is more expensive, at first, to buy good stock and improve the breeding of farm animals, but it is far more profitable and satisfactory than raising ordinary scrub livestock. Certain breeds are best suited to certain uses or types of work, and the farmer secures the type he needs. Breeds of farm animals most popular in Saskatchewan are

Horses	Clydesdale, Percheron, Belgian
Cattle	Beef—Shorthorn, Hereford, Aberdeen Angus Dairy—Shorthorn, Holstein, Ayrshire
Sheep	Shropshire, Oxford, Border Leicester
Pigs	(Bacon type) Yorkshire, Berkshire, Tamworth
Hens	Plymouth Rock, Wyandottes, Leghorns, Orpingtons

Saskatchewan leads all the provinces in the production of turkeys, raising one-quarter of all those produced in the Dominion.

Many interesting stories could be told of the development of farming on the prairies. One of the early settlers was Angus Mackay, who came by ox-cart to the Indian Head district in 1881. During the year of the Rebellion, 1885, he planted no crop, for he sent his men and teams to freight



Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture  
**Typical Mixed Farming Scene**

supplies to the soldiers. The following year was bad for crops, and his neighbours had very little. But Mackay's fields, which had lain idle for a year, produced a crop, and the idea of summerfallowing was introduced into Saskatchewan.

Marquis wheat brought tremendous wealth to the prairies. The variety was produced from a single kernel in a handful sent to Canada from Glasgow, and its story is well worth the reading. (See *The Story of Wheat*, Canadian Social Studies Unit Readers.) Mr. Mackay was given the opportunity of testing out Marquis wheat on his farm at Indian Head. He found that it was extremely well suited to conditions on the prairies. In fact, Marquis wheat was so productive that Western Canada received the name, "Granary of the World."

Texas was famous for its beef cattle, and the beef industry on the prairies got its start in the herds which were driven all the way from Texas to Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Ranching in Saskatchewan is carried on in the south-west near Maple Creek. Cattle and horses are raised on the grassy slopes of the Cypress Hills and Wood Mountains. This district is one of the few places on the continent where the prong-horn antelope may still be found.

#### THE STORY OF FLOUR

The process of making flour from wheat is called milling. Flour milling is a very ancient art. In the Stone Age men made coarse flour by grinding wheat in a hollowed rock—the fore-runner of the saddle stone and mortar. Around 2,000 B.C. rotating stone mills were invented. The early form, known as the quern, consisted of a conical stone surmounted by a cap stone having a central hole through which the grain was fed. The cap stone was revolved by hand or by animal power.

Credit for inventing the water-wheel goes to the Romans who were using this form of power for mills along the Tiber as early as 100 B.C. Twelve centuries later the Dutch windmill was put into use in Holland to pump water and grind grain. These typical windmills are still at work in various parts of Europe.



Saddle Stones



Mortar

With the advent of the steam engine in 1780, the size of mills increased and when the first roller mill was built about a century later, using steel rolls, the way was open for the growth of immense milling units capable of making 25,000 bags of flour per day. Such a mill is shown in the accompanying photograph of a Canadian mill at the foot of Lake Erie.

#### COMPOSITION OF WHEAT

Wheat, like any other seed, contains a germ from which a new plant can grow, and a large reserve of foods to nourish the young plant until it becomes properly rooted. It contains also various substances that digest the plant foods, making them soluble and available to the young sprout. All this material is covered with a tough protective coating known as the bran, which plays the same role for



Quern

the grains as shells and pods do for other seeds. Nature's purpose, of course, is to prevent damage to the germ and its reserve of food.

The germ is small, only about two per cent of the total seed. The branny coats make up nearly thirteen per cent. The remainder, nearly eighty-five per cent, consists of starch and protein, and is called the *endosperm*. It is the endosperm which the miller seeks to separate from the rest of the seed to produce his flour. But not all of this eighty-five per cent can be got away from the bran. Consequently, unless some of the bran is ground down and included in the flour, only about 75 pounds of flour can be milled from 100 pounds of wheat, at best.

"Why remove the bran and the germ?" The answer is simple enough: the ground endosperm keeps better than a meal containing bran and germ. To-day when vast cities have to be fed, "keeping quality" of food products is most essential to avoid waste. Furthermore, white flour, free from bran and germ, makes finer, more palatable bread and is preferred by most people. Therefore, millers remove the bran and germ to satisfy the buyers and to prevent loss from spoiling.

#### THE PROCESS OF MILLING.

Modern mills have vast storage bins where the wheat is held after unloading from lake boats or railway cars. Here



Wheat Kernel

different sorts are kept separate and ready for use in making the numerous grades and types of flour needed for the Canadian and foreign markets.

When the wheat is drawn from the storage elevators, it is first cleaned thoroughly by screening out foreign material, blowing out dust, removing bits of earth by scrubbing, and finally washing with water. After cleaning, it is moistened with water, or "tempered," to make it suitable for grinding. Tempering mellows the inner part of the kernel and toughens the bran to permit it to be removed more easily.

Milling of wheat is a step-by-step process in which the material passes through 10 to 20 or even more machines, each of which has its own particular function in the crushing procedure. Roughly, the whole process may be divided into three main parts: (1) *Breaking*, utilizing about five machines to remove most of the bran and reduce the endosperm to small chunks, (2) *Purifying*, by which very small branny particles are removed by air, (3) *Reducing*, passing through five to ten machines which reduce the chunks of endosperm progressively to the particle size of flour.

After emerging from each separate machine, the stock is sifted through complicated screens of finely woven silk and thus separated into various fractions according to size. Each fraction then travels to the appropriate machine to be further reduced in size.

The main products of milling wheat are: (1) a small amount of wheat germ, used partly for animal feeds and partly for human foods, (2) bran, (3) shorts and middlings, all used for animal feeds, and (4) flour of various grades, which is packed in fabric or paper bags of 98 lbs. each or in smaller packages for household use.



Much of the prairie grain is shipped to the Great Lakes for storing or for milling and of this, large mill at Port Colborne ships out along railway.

## FORESTS

We speak of Saskatchewan as a Prairie Province, but its northern half is largely forest-covered. The climate is not so mild nor so moist as that of British Columbia, so the trees are not so large, but the forests are valuable resources.

Over \$5,000,000 worth of lumber was produced in 1947. The chief woods used for lumber are white spruce, jackpine, poplar, and birch. Nearly all of the timber cut in the province is soft wood. In the Carrot River area there are many logging camps. Much of the wood is floated down the river to the big saw mills at The Pas, but there is also a large mill at nearby Crooked River.

Farwood uses a large amount of our timber yield, and other forest products are pulpwood, fence posts, telephone poles, railway ties, shingles, and 'Christmas' trees.

Winter is the busy season in a lumber camp, for the ground is frozen and covered with snow. Caterpillar tractors draw long trains of sleighs laden with logs for the mills. To prevent waste, lumbermen are not allowed to cut small trees, nor to cut large ones in such a way as to damage those nearby. Rangers watch from radio-equipped towers so that forest fires may be checked before they become serious. Airplanes are used to patrol the forests, finding natural landing fields on the numerous northern lakes. In 1947 a school was opened in Prince Albert to train parachute jumpers. Airplanes carry the 'smoke jumpers', who are thus able to locate fires in remote districts.

Much care is needed to protect the forests and restore the growth. The provincial government has stated that,





**Bush Pilot Lee in Range—Mail plane**

1. General 2. Mail of

since 1910, more than half of the commercial forest area has been destroyed by fire. In addition, wasteful cutting of lumber has added to the loss.

Besides the value of the wood products, forests have other uses. Water is conserved by trees, and the rain soaks into the ground, instead of running off as it does on the prairies. Animals and birds make their homes in the woods. The green forests provide places for healthful, enjoyable holidays.

The government of the province recently announced that their intention is "to give our forests increased protection from fire, and to reduce waste occurring in logging operations."



*Sledging on the edge of the timberline*

**Team of Husky Dogs**

## THE FAR NORTH

North of the timber area in Saskatchewan is a very large region, almost one half of the province, where very few people live. Trees are smaller, and they grow in a much thinner soil than is found in regions farther south. The rock is so near the surface that outcroppings of rock are common. There are lakes and streams in abundance.

Toward the extreme north the winter climate is very severe. The temperature drops to as low as 65 degrees below zero.



Indians watching plane which has landed in a northern lake

The population of the far north is 11,000 people, made up of 6,000 whites and Metis, and 5,000 Indians. Industries are, fishing and fur trading. Settlements are often one hundred miles apart, and there are few schools or hospitals.

Because there are no man-made roads, transportation is difficult. Formerly, travel in summer was by canoe, and in winter by dog team. Now the airplane is the chief means of communication. In winter, motorized toboggans and snowmobiles are used by some travellers.

Until the coming of the airplane, northern fishermen and fur traders found it difficult to market their fish and furs. Now the Government Airways has a regular schedule connecting the far north with Prince Albert.

## MINING

There are two chief mining regions in Saskatchewan, one in the south and the other in the north. In the prairie lands are the non-metallic minerals such as coal, clay, sodium sulphate, and other mineral salts. Northern Saskatchewan lies largely within the Canadian Shield, and here metallic minerals such as copper, zinc, silver, and gold have been found. The water routes are the chief means of travel in the north, so that most of the prospecting has been done close to the travelled rivers and lakes. However, the little exploring that has been done in the north shows the presence of a variety of minerals.

## COAL

In our story of the early history of the West, we read of a time when the climate was warm, and the land covered with tropical growth.

As the ages passed, the forests that grew in that warm swampy place sank into the water and were covered with layers of rock and soil. The pressure of the soil above hardened the wood of the forests into coal. Because of this, that period of time is known as the Coal Age.

Gradually the waters receded from the land, and trees and plants grew again in the soil. Once again, sand and clay were washed in to cover the forests. This happened a number of times. Because the land sank below the ocean, and rose and sank again, we find coal in layers or seams, some near the surface, some hundreds of feet down. The



Strip mining lignite coal near Estevan, Sask.

thickness of the layer depends upon the amount of decayed wood and plant material which was buried.

Sometimes the coal man urges us to get ready for winter by laying in our supply early but think how long ago nature began to lay in a supply of coal so that we could heat our houses through the long cold winters.

Saskatchewan ranks second of the provinces of Canada in the amount of its coal deposits. The best known coal area is in the Souris River district, near Estevan. There is a great deposit of lignite coal, which supplies much of the fuel for prairie homes. It is not as hard as the bituminous coal mined in Alberta, or the even harder coals found in the foothills of the mountains, and it does not store as well in the summertime. Saskatchewan coal is near the

surface, so mining is simpler than in deep mines like those of Nova Scotia. There are about thirty-five mines in the Estevan area. Most of them are small open-pit mines which yield only a few hundred tons annually, but there are larger mines, too, and Saskatchewan produces over one million tons of coal every year, ranking fourth in the Dominion in annual coal production. At Bienfait, in the Estevan district, briquettes are made of coal dust mixed with pitch and shaped into small cakes. This is a good fuel, and uses much coal that would otherwise be wasted.

Oil and natural gas are produced chiefly at the Lloydminster and Unity fields. This industry is in its early stages of development. Drilling for oil near Unity revealed a salt mine, and a plant has been established for its production. In 1949 the Provincial Government made agreements with several large oil companies to explore and test the province's oil resources.

#### SODIUM SULPHATE

Prairie dwellers have long been familiar with the gleaming, crystal-covered shores of 'alkali' lakes and sloughs which dot the western plains. To the early settlers these lakes, often several miles in length, with their strange odour, their white powder which high winds distributed over the countryside, their treeless shores and scarcity of wild life, were unpleasant and useless. Yet in recent years these alkaline deposits have been made to yield an abundant and valuable harvest of sodium sulphate.

During World War I, the search for new sources of potash

led to the discovery of large stores of sodium compounds in these prairie lakes—Saskatchewan possesses most of the world's supply of sodium sulphate in its natural form—but commercial development followed slowly, owing to the fact that in most cases a moisture content of at least 50% in the sodium sulphate crystals made freight rates too high for profitable shipment to the markets in the East. In the early 1930's, however, a method of removing the water content was found, with the result that several alkali lakes have become centres of thriving industries, shipping thousands of tons of sodium sulphate yearly. The coming of World War II, and the cutting-off of cheap supplies of this product formerly obtained from Germany, increased the demand for the Canadian product which is of better quality than that obtained elsewhere because it is free from impurities and is not likely to form hard cakes or lumps during shipment.

Modern methods are used to harvest the white mineral deposits, which are exposed by the evaporation of water from lakes and sloughs. Tractors, scrapers, and fleets of trucks pile up huge stores of the sulphate, later to be carried away by railway after all moisture content has been removed. Very large quantities of the dehydrated crystals are shipped in the form of "salt cake" to be used in the manufacture of certain types of paper. Large quantities are also used in the refining of metals, while other uses are in the manufacture of glass, textiles, photographic supplies, and as a basis for veterinary supplies. There is a large plant for the production of sodium sulphate at Chaplin, just west of Moose Jaw.



*California Film Board*

Pouring molten metal, Flin Flon

## METALS

Copper and zinc are the chief minerals of the Flin Flon area, but silver, gold, and other metals are found there, too.





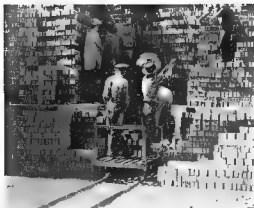
*National Film Board*

**Dumping slag at Fin River**

The mines are on the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border. The town is actually in Manitoba, as is the entrance to the mine, but most of the ore comes from the Saskatchewan side of the boundary. The Island Falls power plant on the Churchill River, built by the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, supplies power to nearby mines.

Gold, copper, nickel, and pitchblende have been found in the Lake Athabaska area where the chief mining centre is at Goldfields, on the north shore of the lake. During World War II, the mines at Goldfields were idle.

Other areas in the north show promise of valuable ore deposits, and when machinery and labour are available, new discoveries will no doubt open up new wealth.



*Saskatchewan Film Board*

Stacking bricks at brick plant, Estevan

## CLAY

Saskatchewan clays are variable and of many uses, from the making of brick and tiles to the making of high-grade pottery. At Estevan a plant produces common and tile brick. Mines at Eastend produce enough clay to supply all the needs of the Alberta Clay Products. Clay from Eastend is also shipped to the Medalta Pottery in Medicine Hat. Other markets are being developed.



Outcrop showing pottery clay—east end, Sask.



University Film Board

Saskatchewan Hall and Qu'Appelle Hall, University of Saskatchewan, built of Saskatchewan limestone

At Claybank in the Dirt Hills, clay is made into fire bricks. Modelling clay for school work is produced in Saskatchewan and used in schools in most of the provinces.

Limestone is found commonly in the province, and is valuable for construction. The University buildings at Saskatoon are built of a beautiful prairie limestone, and Saskatchewan people are proud to compare them with university buildings of other provinces across Canada.

#### FISHING.

A map of Saskatchewan shows many rivers and lakes in the northern part of the province, and there are many more too small to be shown on most maps. Here, in the deep cold waters, is a wealth of fish life, and the forests of the north breed myriads of insects which supply food for the fish. As yet the fishing industry is by no means fully developed, because of the difficulty of reaching the fisheries, and the lack of transportation to markets, but Saskatchewan's annual fish production is valued at approximately one million dollars.

The chief varieties of fish found in Saskatchewan, in the order of their importance, are whitefish, pickerel, trout, pike, tullibee, ling, sturgeon, and goldeyes. In winter most of the fish are shipped frozen and must not be allowed to thaw till they reach their destination. Others are shipped fresh, packed in ice. Some are shipped by plane, reaching southern dinner tables very shortly after being taken from the cold northern waters. Most of Saskatchewan's fish are sold in the United States.



Saskatchewan Bureau of Fisheries  
Indian children at Lac la Ronge. Government owned fish-filleting plant in the background

Sturgeon roe (or eggs) is sold as a great luxury under the name of caviar, and smoked goldeyes from the Saskatchewan River are enjoyed all across the continent. As indicated above, the principal fish, however, is the whitefish. Pike and pickerel are, perhaps, the best game fish.

A Fish Board has been established to help fishermen secure better prices and to improve the quality of Saskatchewan fish. Scientists have been employed to study fish habits and diseases. Rules for grading and sanitary handling of fish are enforced.



*Photo by J. Van Fleet*

Ermine and fox in storage, Saskatchewan Government-owned fur marketing service

#### PLANS

In our story much has already been told of the oldest industry in the province. There is a long list of fur-bearing animals in the northern forests: badger, bear, beaver, coyote, fisher, several species of fox, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, skunk, weasel, wildcat, and wolf.

The muskrat heads the list in the number and value of skins sold. Fox and weasel are next in importance. Do you know the weasel by any other name? Ermine is really the winter coat of the weasel. Many foxes, muskrats, and squirrels are caught, and rabbits, though very cheap, bring



*Saskatchewan Bureau of Furbearings*

**Buyers and helpers, Saskatchewan Government Fur Marketing Service**

a considerable sum because so many are taken. Because timber wolves are a menace to other game, a bounty has been placed on them.

The fur farming industry is becoming more important, and fox, mink, raccoon, skunk, marten, and fisher are the valuable pelts produced from captive animals.

The provincial government has given special attention to the fur industry in the far north of the province. To conserve fur bearers, quotas have been placed upon beaver and muskrat. Live beaver are transferred to suitable locations. Furs are shipped to the Fur Marketing Agency in Regina, where they are graded and classified. Furs in the past few years have brought more than a million dollars annually.

## Co-operation in Saskatchewan

While the co-operative movement did not have its start in Saskatchewan, that province has the greatest number of co-operatives, with the greatest number of members, and doing the largest amount of business, of any province in Canada.

The movement is world-wide. The first successful co-operative was formed by a group of weavers in Rochdale, England, a little more than a century ago.

Their association was known as The Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers. They had very little money, but they pooled what they had in order to buy certain necessities which they re-sold to themselves. At first people made fun of their efforts, but they were able to stay in business, make a profit, and increase their membership.

The rules adopted by the Rochdale Co-operative have been followed by most co-operative organizations formed since that time.

1. Each member was to have one vote, and only one.
2. Anyone could become a member no matter what his race, religion, or political party.



- 1 Members were to receive the minimum rate of interest on their investment, goods were to be sold at a fair price, and profits to be fairly divided between the members.

The story of the growth of co-operatives in Saskatchewan is an interesting one. The pioneer settlers, living as they did in a country where the population was sparsely settled over a large area, found they must help each other. They were so far from the larger centres of population and industry to which they must look for their markets and their supplies that railways were very important to them. As individuals, their bargaining power was little, but they found that by working together they could influence the railway companies and the government to improve services and reduce rates.

The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' organization had its beginning in 1901, and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company was started in 1911. From these was developed the Saskatchewan Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited, usually called the Wheat Pool.

Before the farmer was a Pool member, he usually had to sell his wheat in the fall, when it was cheapest. Only the wealthier grain growers could hold their wheat until the price improved. By contract with the Pool, the farmers could deliver their grain in the fall and receive part payment for it. The Pool could hold or sell the grain according to market prices. By this co-operative effort the farmer could secure money for his crop without having to dump it on the cheap fall market.

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool joined with the Manitoba and Alberta Pools to form a Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited. The Pools worked well until the

depression and the war years. To help the prairie farmers during the most difficult times, the Canadian Government in 1935 established the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Wheat Pool has grown to include the Saskatchewan Co-operative Producers Limited, Saskatchewan Pool Elevators Limited, Saskatchewan Terminals Limited, Saskatchewan Co-operative Livestock Producers Limited and the Modern Press Limited. These important sounding names are so long that most people refer to these organizations as "Co-ops".

The 'Co-ops' are important. In the country towns of Saskatchewan there are one thousand one hundred and forty Pool Elevators. At Port Arthur there are three huge storage elevators owned by the Pool. The Modern Press, which does the publishing for the Pool, has a splendid new plant at Saskatoon. At Saskatoon, too, the Pool has built a vegetable-oil plant which is the first part of a huge new plant for the processing of grain products.

Influenced by the success of the Wheat Pool, the farmers organized a Poultry Pool and a Dairy Pool.

At Swift Current Co-operative Creamery one and one-quarter million pounds of butter and one-half million dozen eggs were handled in a year. How many eggs are there in one-half million dozen?

Consumer Co-operatives have been started to enable farmers to buy goods like wire, binder twine, or gasoline, in large quantities at lower prices. By this plan, individuals supply capital by buying shares in the Co-operative, which carries on business much as a store does. After deducting reserves, surpluses are divided among the shareholders.

## CREDIT UNIONS

Closely related to the co-operative movement are the Credit Unions, which have been established in the province. These unions provide for deposits of money for savings. They also allow members short-term loans.

## CO-OPERATIVE FARMS

Near Kyle, Saskatchewan, a co-operative farming enterprise has been started by a group of veterans. They secured the great Matador Ranch which had been operated by the government for a number of years as a community pasture. By working together, and by pooling their resources, they have raised crops, bought necessary machinery, irrigated the land, and built homes, a school, and a community hall.

The Matador Farm is only one of sixteen co-operative farms which have been established at various places throughout the province. Three of the best known, other than the Matador, are at Sturgis, Tisdale, and Meskanaw.

## CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY PASTURES

In certain communities, a number of farmers organized Co-operative Community Pasture Associations. Land which is not suitable for farming, but which has grass and water, makes good pasture land. Large blocks of this kind of land were leased by farmer associations. Upon payment of their membership fee, which is set at cost, the farmers are allowed to place livestock in these community pastures.

The members of the Association choose a manager and board of directors who decide on the number of animals to be accepted for pasturage and decide on improvements, such as fences or water holes, and who hire a herder for the grazing season.

Farm machinery is replacing horses because farmers work quickly and with little hired help when they use machinery. If you could borrow your neighbour's tractor, or his seed-drill or combine, you could get along very cheaply. But machinery breaks down, and it is expensive to repair or replace. Neighbours may not like lending their machines.

#### CO-OPERATIVE FARM MACHINERY

A solution to the problem was found through organizing co-operative associations for the use of farm machinery. Groups of farmers bought and used co-operatively the equipment necessary to operate their land. There have been advantages from the forming of the Farm Machinery Co-operative. (1) Farmers have the use of machinery at smaller cost because the cost is shared. (2) One machine can do the work on many farms, instead of being idle for a great part of the year. (3) Many more machines are available than when each farmer bought his own. (4) Farmers have to spend less time in field work and have more time for such work as raising livestock. (5) Farmers with small farms have the use of machinery which they could not afford without a co-operative.

The co-operative movement in Saskatchewan has grown to be so important that the provincial government has set

up by Department of Co-operatives and Co-operative Development

A number of government-owned industries have also been set up. They include a wooden mill at Moose Jaw, a brick plant at Estevan, a sod and sulphate plant at Chaplin, a fur marketing agency, and a transportation company.



*Photo from Department of Agriculture*

Combine pickup harvesting barley. Unloading grain from hopper to truck while outfit is in motion!

## Provincial Playgrounds

**B**Y THIS TIME we have surely been convinced that Saskatchewan is not entirely a treeless plain. There are a number of beautiful, tree-shaded resorts where one may spend a pleasant holiday.

Prince Albert National Park attracts the greatest number of visitors. Here is a great stretch of wooded country with many lakes and rivers. Wild animals are protected, and they can be studied in their native surroundings. Grey Owl's stories of the beaver have their setting in this district. Fishing, boating, bathing, and golf are only a few of the sports to be enjoyed there. Visitors to the National Park who have known only the prairie regions, are amazed to find the variety of scenery Saskatchewan offers. Most of the visitors to the park live at the town of Waskesiu.

Smaller provincial parks, each with its own special attractions, have been set aside at nine places in Saskatchewan.

Cypress Hills Park is south of Maple Creek. The hills of the park are covered with a heavy growth of lodge-pole pine which shelters antelope, deer, and elk, as well as smaller wild life.



View of the 18th hole.

Waukegan Golf Course, Waukegan, Ill.



View of the 18th hole.

Waukegan Golf Course



Another view of Waskagan

See Chapter VIII on Hunting

Moose Mountain Park, in the south-east of the province, contains Kenossee Lake, where a fine stone chalet has been built.

Good Spirit Lake, north of Yorkton, has an excellent sandy beach.

One hundred miles to the east is Duck Mountain Park. Here quiet Madge Lake is known for its fishing and for the wild life on its wooded shores.

Little Manitou Park is near the town of Warrows. Minerals in Little Manitou Lake make the water very buoyant, and give the lake a reputation as a health resort.





*Saskatchewan Bureau of Publications*

**Speed Boats on Emma Lake**

In the beautiful Qu'Appelle valley, north of Indian Head, is Karempe Provincial Park.

The three newest parks are in the north—Lac la Ronge, northeast of Prince Albert National Park, gives promise of a fine vacation spot in the future, Greenwater Lake, north of Wadena, is noted for its fishing, and Nipawin Park, set in a forest of pine, poplar, and spruce, is undeveloped as yet.

Saskatchewan attracts sportsmen from other parts of Canada, and from the United States. Hunting and fishing are controlled by game laws so that wild life will be protected. Big game includes deer, moose, caribou and bear.



*Source: Bureau of Publications*

#### **Clearance for Frequenter—Cypress Hills Park**

Wild game birds are prairie chickens, geese, ducks, Hungarian partridges and grouse. Fish are found in abundance in the streams and lakes of the North.

Ducks Unlimited is an organization of sportsmen to conserve wild life. Its members have interested both the government and the public in the need for conservation of water and forests if birds and wild animals are to be saved.



Summer cottage, Cream Lake

(21-2)

Once whooping cranes spent the summers in thousands on prairie marshes. Now only a few, perhaps thirty in all, remain in the world. In the summer of 1948 a pair of these rare birds nested at Rice Lake, about 20 miles west of Saskatoon. Because of the drying up of the marshes where they have nested, and because they are an easy target for hunters, these great birds may soon disappear from the earth.

A very interesting display of world folk which is native to Saskatchewan may be seen in the provincial museum in Regina. This new exhibition is in charge of Mr. Fred Bard. The archeological collection of Mr. W. J. Orchard shows tools and weapons used by the early Indians.

## Provincial Government

**T**HE DOMINION PARLIAMENT at Ottawa is made up of two Houses, the Senate, to which Saskatchewan sends six members, and the House of Commons, to which Saskatchewan sends twenty-one members.

The Provincial Government has only one House. Saskatchewan's Provincial Legislature is at Regina, and its fifty-five members are elected by the people of the province for a period of five years. The Premier is the leader in the Legislature, and he is chosen because he is head of the party which has the largest number of members in the House. If you see the letters M.L.A. after a person's name, it means he is a Member of the Legislative Assembly, or the Provincial Parliament.

The King is represented in the province by the Lieutenant-Governor, whose duties in the Provincial Parliament are similar to those of the Governor-General in the Dominion Parliament.

The Provincial Government makes laws that concern Saskatchewan alone, and it has certain duties to the people. Education is under provincial control, and all schools, from

remote rural districts to the University of Saskatchewan are under the Department of Education. Highways, bridges, and telephones are also under provincial departments.

There are other ways in which the government serves the people. In 1947 a plan for free hospitalization of all residents of the province was put into effect. An annual tax is levied on each person to spread the cost, and to give everybody an opportunity to obtain needed hospital care. The provincial government gives free care to mental patients in hospitals at Weyburn and North Battleford. There are three provincial jails, at Regina, Prince Albert, and Moosemin. The Power Commission supplies many of the towns and cities with electric light and power. Their names tell the work done by the Bureau of Child Protection, the Minimum Wage Board, the Department of Public Health, and the Old Age Pensions Branch.

Free care is provided for tuberculosis patients in Sanatoria at Qu'Appelle, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. The government builds the hospitals, then turns them over to the Anti-Tuberculosis League. Grants are made by municipalities as well as by the provincial government.

In Saskatchewan there are four experimental farms—at Indian Head, Swift Current, Scott, and Melfort, and two forest nursery stations—at Sutherland and Indian Head. The University of Saskatchewan does much to encourage better farming methods, as may be seen by a visit to its farm buildings and experimental plots. These are all centres for experiment in new types of grain, grasses, trees, livestock, and farming methods. Both the provincial and the dominion Departments of Agriculture issue many publications which are of interest and help to farmers.

A long-felt want was filled when the Saskatchewan Archives Board in 1948 began the publication of *Saskatchewan History*. This magazine, published three times a year, contains a collection of articles and stories about early days in the province. Every effort is made by the editors to secure authentic material from reliable sources. This is a praiseworthy undertaking, for there are many pioneers still living in the province who can give first hand information about early days, or who have valuable and interesting letters or records.

#### EDUCATION

When settlers took up land in Saskatchewan, one of their first community efforts was to build a school. Lands had been set aside for this purpose when surveys were made. The first schools were small one-roomed log or frame buildings. As more people came to live in the province, schools multiplied, until by 1930 there were about five thousand school districts.

The drought years were difficult times for the educational system. When better times returned, farmers received more money for their produce, and there was more money to spend on the schools. Like other Canadian provinces, Saskatchewan boasts that every child has the right to a good education. With more money at hand, the province hoped to live up to its boast.

In 1944, the government proposed that the 5000 school districts should be replaced by larger units. By the end of 1946, forty five larger units had been established.

Free textbooks are now being supplied to elementary



College Building, University of Saskatchewan

school pupils. Grants of money are made to help schools buy equipment such as libraries, moving picture projectors, shop tools, etc. School broadcasts are presented regularly to the schools. Circulator health services are being extended to school children and buildings have been improved, repaired, or replaced.

Even in the far north almost all white and Metis children are now attending school.

In cities and towns there are modern public and high schools. Technical education is given special grants, and students in some districts have schools equipped for the study of agriculture, home economics, wood working, and motor mechanics.



Rhythm band, School for the Deaf, Saskatoon

Teachers are trained at Normal Schools in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon. The School for the Deaf is also in Saskatoon.

There are books for everyone. For those who are far from a public library, the Public Information Library in Regina will send out new books of non-fiction and magazines on current events. The Traveling Library Service sends boxes of about fifty books to districts requesting them.

In Saskatoon is situated the provincial university, the University of Saskatchewan. From its foundation in 1909 it has maintained a high standard of academic training, and its graduates have distinguished themselves wherever they have gone. The University has always had as its object



to serve the needs of the people of the province. It was one of the first universities to combine the arts and sciences courses with its courses in agriculture. It has done much to encourage better farming methods and to develop better grains and forage crops. It has made a complete survey of the soils in all parts of the province. One department undertook the study of the effect of alkali on cement. Another department has made a study of Saskatchewan clays and the ways in which they may be used. A new medical college has recently been added to the university. Regina College, in Regina, is a Junior College branch of the university.

#### EXTENSION DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Since it is not possible for all people to come to the University, the University extends its help to many people in all parts of the province, especially to those in rural areas.

The Extension Department has sections for Men's and Women's work. The work for men is largely taught through short courses at the University in the College of Agriculture. During the winter, when their farm work is lightest, farmers attend classes in which they are taught better farming methods and the care and use of machinery, together with 'extras' such as bee-keeping.

Both Boys' and Girls' Clubs are supervised by the Department of Men's work in such projects as Live Stock, Poultry, and Grain Clubs. These young people are trained in judging by their local club leaders, and the winners in eleven different projects are given a free trip to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair, where they again compete with those

from other provinces in the judging of live stock and farm produce.

Girls and women are given instruction in the various branches of homecraft. Any organized group of women may request instruction in such subjects as cooking, dress-making, upholstery, or handcraft. An instructor from the Extension Department is sent out, all expenses other than for supplying the meeting place, being borne by the University. Demonstrations, lectures, and short courses lasting from one day to one week, are given.

The work of the unions is emphasized. Leaders for Boys' and Girls' Clubs follow courses of instructions and outlines for meetings which are planned by the University. Among the highlights of the year are the camps for both boys and girls at summer fairs. Here girls judge needlework or cooking and both boys and girls show their skill in judging livestock and farm produce. Some of the girls do as well as the boys at judging livestock.

In a province where seven out of every ten people live on farms, the teaching of homecraft and farming methods to young people is an undertaking of great practical worth.

#### THE Y. M. C. A. — SASKATCHEWAN RECREATION MOVEMENT

It is the duty of a government to watch over the welfare of its people. Health, physical fitness, and worth while activities for spare time are all important to their welfare. In 1943 the Dominion Government passed an act which provided for a sum of money to be distributed to the provinces for the promotion of fitness work. In the following year Saskatchewan drew up a plan for carrying out its share of



Physical Education Class, Summer School, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

the Recreation Movement. At first this was set up under the Department of Health but since April 1948 it has operated under the Department of Education. Since recreation is both healthful and educational either of these departments seems very suitable.

The object of the Movement was to create recreational activities which would improve the health and welfare of the people of the province. Communities, particularly in rural districts, have been encouraged to take part in sports programmes and organized athletics, in dramatics, crafts and camping. In one year two hundred and ten schools took part in the Junior Drama Festival. Grants of money have

been given for scholarships in physical education, drama, arts and crafts, and music.

Trained instructors are needed if such a programme is to be successful. The University of Saskatchewan provides



Inspecting baking done under S.R.M. Physical Fitness programme.

physical education classes for leaders at its summer school. In 1948 two hundred and forty seven leaders attended two of these classes. In addition, other courses have been given in Youth Training and Co-op Schools.

The Recreation Movement is being carried on in many parts of the world, and especially in the countries of the British Commonwealth. In all these places the objects of the movement are the same: to make worth-while use of leisure time, to build moral as well as physical fitness,

and to make happy and useful boys and girls, men and women

#### THE SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD

Because so many of the people of Saskatchewan live far from cities, they do not all have the opportunity of hearing good plays and music, or of seeing fine pictures. Early in 1948 the Saskatchewan Arts Board was established. Its purpose was to give the citizens of the province the chance to take part in drama, the visual arts, music, literature, and handicrafts. First consideration was to be given to people living in smaller towns and villages.

In the short time that the Arts Board has been active, much has been done. "The University Players" have made very successful tours of the province, presenting plays that were very much enjoyed. Exhibitions of pictures, both of original paintings and reproductions, have been held, and much has been done to encourage local artists. Many small towns have presented concerts by musicians who have toured the province. The Arts Board has tried to develop handicrafts of high standard, and much interest has been aroused in the national handicrafts of people of foreign descent.

All of these activities have helped people to live a fuller and happier life.

## Art in Saskatchewan

**I**N 1910 TWO MEN came to Saskatchewan. Both were artists, both had studied art in the British Isles, and both liked the province so well that they remained there. These two men have become very well known for their work, and they both have been honoured by having their pictures accepted in the National Gallery.

One of these men was A. F. (Gus) Kenderdine, who lived and painted in the north of the prairie land. He instructed in art at the University of Saskatchewan and at Regina College. With Dr. Gordon Snelgrove, he conducted an outdoor University Art Class at Emma Lake during the summers. His paintings of Saskatchewan scenes have been well-known in Canada for many years. He died in 1944. Recently the provincial government paid tribute to Mr. Kenderdine by publishing a booklet containing prints of some of his paintings. It is addressed "To the Youth of Saskatchewan" and it contains a foreword by the President of the University in appreciation of the beloved teacher who was the first "Professor of Art in our University."

The other man was James Henderson, who settled in the lovely Qu'Appelle Valley. He is widely known for his painting of Indian heads, but many people prefer his landscapes. "The End of Winter" is a lovely Qu'Appelle scene.

Sheldon Williams, of Regina, worked in water colours, painting horses and landscapes.

The best known of a very active group of younger artists is Ernest Linder. He was born in Austria, but his painting has been done in Saskatchewan. At first he worked on a farm, and painted houses, but he soon gave all his time to another kind of painting. He has a cabin on an island in Emma Lake, and there he paints during the summer months. He is an instructor at the Saskatoon Technical School. He has done much to encourage young artists. His scenes of the north woods in oil, water-colour, or drawing, are widely known. His style is his own, and it is vigorous and refreshing.

Dr. L. G. Saunders, of the University of Saskatchewan, is best known for his photography, but he also paints prairie scenes.

Robert Hurley has a different style. Paintings in water-colours of prairie elevators are most typical of him.

Frederick Steiger, who is now living in Toronto, painted portraits, that is, pictures of people. Often the people he chose to paint were those who showed in their faces the troubles brought by hard times.

A group of young Saskatchewan-born artists includes Illingworth Kerr, McGregor Hone, Garnet Hazard, and Bart Pragnell. Mr. Pragnell, who was supervisor of art for the schools of Moose Jaw, has moved to Winnipeg as head of the Winnipeg Art College.

Wynona Muskater, of the Saskatoon Normal School, is doing outstanding work in children's art.

To exchange ideas and further art in the province, a number of artists recently formed a group known as "The Prospectors."



*Interlunar Basin of Saskatchewan*

*An view of Regina Parliament Buildings in the background*



## Cities of Saskatchewan

### REGINA

WHEN THE RAILWAY WAS BEING BUILT across the southern prairies in 1882, the tracks reached a great pile of buffalo bones which had been gathered by native hunters. The Indians had given the place the name 'Wascana', meaning 'pile of bones'. When it was decided to move the capital of the North West Territories from Battleford to the south, Pile O' Bones was chosen to be the new capital. A more suitable name had to be found and the village was called Regina, which means Queen. So the provincial capital is the Queen City.

Regina has become famous as the old headquarters of the Royal North West Mounted Police, and as a trading centre for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Provincial Parliament Buildings are there, beside Wascana Lake, which was formed by widening and beautifying Wascana Creek. Regina is on the main line of the C.P.R. and is the largest city in Saskatchewan, with a population of about 60,000.



*Saskatchewan Bureau of Publications*  
Victoria Park, Regina. Federal Building (left) Saskatchewan Hotel

Regina is the distributing centre for a large area. Many large manufacturers have branch offices there. There are three oil refineries in the city.

#### SASKATOON

In 1882 the townsite of Saskatoon was chosen by John Lake, who was sent by the Temperance Colonization Company from Toronto to find a place for a colony of settlers. Berries which grew plentifully in the District had been named saskatoons by the Indians, and he chose Saskatoon as the name of the town. In 1883 Saskatoon's first settlers



Kwame Park, Saskatoon

came west by rail to Moose Jaw, then made their long cross-country journey. The story of Saskatoon's early days is well told in the book, *Retracing the Old Trail* by Gerald Willoughby.

The town has become a beautiful city on the banks of the South Saskatchewan. Many rail lines lead out from Saskatoon to towns and villages in farming districts, and it has two large flour mills and a huge storage elevator. Because

of its central position, Saskatoon was chosen for the site of the University of Saskatchewan. A number of important new buildings have been added recently to the fine University, among them the Prairie Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council.

#### PRINCE ALBERT

Prince Albert, on the north branch of the Saskatchewan, was the first white settlement in the province. It was started in 1866 by Rev. James Nisbet, as a Cree Mission. It was to Prince Albert that many new settlers moved from Manitoba, and it was the chief stop between Winnipeg and Edmonton. When the railway was built across the south of the province, settlement increased much more rapidly in that area. To-day, Prince Albert is the chief distributing point for Northern Saskatchewan.

#### MOOSE JAW

The third largest city of the province is Moose Jaw, forty miles west of Regina on the main highway across Canada, and on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is in the same rich farming district as Regina and has a number of packing plants, flour mills, and oil refineries. The Moose Jaw Natatorium, a public swimming pool, gets its water supply from artesian wells. Near the city is the Wild Animal Park where buffalo, deer, moose, e.k., bear, and other animals may be seen.

#### NORTH BATTLEFORD

North Battleford is on the North Saskatchewan River on the edge of the park land. It is the only important centre in a large agricultural district. Across the river is old Battleford, the first capital of the North West Territories. The old headquarters of the Royal North West Mounted Police was in Battleford, and it was near here that the last Indian battles were fought.

#### SWIFT CURRENT

Swift Current is in the south-west of Saskatchewan, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is in the cattle- and sheep-raising district of the province. At Swift Current there is a widely-known Dominion Experimental Farm, and a project for irrigation which supplies water for 25,000 acres.

The two smallest cities of the province are Yorkton, near the Manitoba border, and Weyburn, near the international border in south-eastern Saskatchewan.

## Books to Read

- Under Western Skies*—A. S. Morton (Nelson)  
*Stone Age on the Prairies*—W. J. Orchard  
(School Aids)  
*Painted Arrows*—Mary Weekes (School Aids)  
*Great Chiefs and Mighty Hunters of the Western Plains*  
Mary Weekes (School Aids)  
*Round the Council Fires*—Mary Weekes (Ryerson)  
*Last Buffalo Hunter*—Mary Weekes (Macmillan)  
*War Trail of Big Bear*—W. B. Cameron  
*Retracing the Old Trail*—Gerald Willoughby  
(Privately printed)  
*Historic Saskatchewan*—John Archer (Privately printed)  
*Lure of the West*—William Lewis (School Aids)  
*The Sodbusters*—J. W. G. McEwan (Nelson)  
*Slava Bohu*—Jim Wright (Farrar)  
*All Clear Canada*—Jim Wright (Copp Clark)  
*Men in Sheepskin Coats*—Vera Lysenko (Ryerson)  
*Only the Stars Know*—Don A. MacMillan (Dent)  
*Canadian School Plays*—F. M. Jones (Ryerson)  
*Drama is Fun*—R. J. Morris (Ryerson)  
*My Kitchen Window* (poems)—Edna Jaques (Allen)  
*A History of the Canadian West to 1870-71*  
A. S. Morton (Nelson)  
*Birth of Western Canada*—G. F. Stanley (Longmans)  
*When Fur Was King*—H. J. Moberly (Dutton)  
*Wind Without Rain*—S. H. Dewdney (Copp Clark)

*Winning the Frontier*—E. H. Oliver (United Church Publications)  
*Music at the Close*—E. A. McCourt (Ryerson)  
*The Flaming Hour*—E. A. McCourt (Ryerson)  
*The Canadian West in Fiction*—E. A. McCourt (Ryerson)  
*Gay Dogs and Dark Horses*—Illingworth Kerr (Dent)  
*Sarah Braks*—P. G. Hebert (Oxford)  
*Who Has Seen the Wind*—W. O. Mitchell (Macmillan)  
*Next Year*—Harry Pick  
*As For Me and My House*—Sinclair Ross (Reynal)  
*Our Daily Bread*—Philip Grove (Macmillan)  
*Fresh Wind Blowing*—Grace Campbell (Collins)  
*Higher Hill*—Grace Campbell (Collins)  
*Thornapple Tree*—Grace Campbell (Collins)  
*Willow Smoke*—Ethel Kirk Grayson (Vinal)  
*Apples of the Moon*—Ethel Kirk Grayson (Allen)  
*Fires in the Vine*—Ethel Kirk Grayson (Macmillan)  
*The Saskatchewan*—Marjorie Wilkins Campbell (Clarke, Irwin)

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